

**HOT
SWIMSUIT
ISSUE**

WIN A KAWASAKI JET SKI




SPORT

BEAUTY & the BEACH

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the Big Island of Hawaii*

MARCH 1995





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MODELS
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STORY INSIDE**

SPORT

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**REAL
SPORTS
FOR REAL
FANS**

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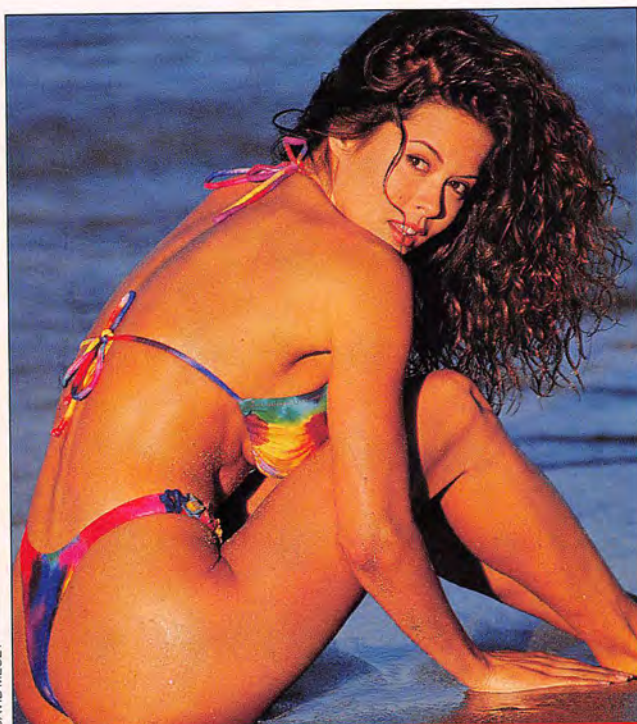
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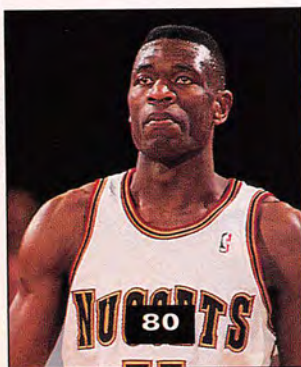


DAVID MECEY

COVER STORY

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BEAUTY AND THE BEACH
Showcasing the hot swimsuits and gorgeous women of SPORT



TIM DEFERRIS/INBA PHOTOS



DAVID LAM KYLE

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

**FROM: the desk of
Steve Garvey**



Back in the late 1970s, I was part of an article that debated the virtues of class vs. style. In the sporting world, these frequently used characterizations are often

mingled and unclear.

"Class" is defined by the American Heritage College Dictionary as "an established model or standard with lasting significance or worth...and [one] who has an elegance of taste and manner." The definition reminds me of the proper Englishman with centuries of royal heritage.

But in sports, class becomes the measuring stick for performers who aspire to be great. The difference between good and great? It's a personal commitment to representing your sport, city, team and fans with integrity on and off the field.

Athletes who fit my definition of classy? Cal Ripken Jr., Joe Dumars, Ozzie Smith, Jerry Rice, John Stockton, Hakeem Olajuwon, David Robinson, Greg Maddux, Troy Aikman, Marcus Allen, Joe Montana, Warren Moon, Tony Gwynn, Karl Malone and Emmitt Smith.

"Style" is defined as "the way in which something is said, done, expressed or performed in one's actions or taste...with a quality of imagination and individuality." The key word in this definition is individuality. "Stylists" usually act on their own. They march to a different beat, hear music we don't, and see and feel the whole arena. They may be team players, but given a one-on-one situation, teamwork usually flies out the window and the "shake and bake" takes over. Mr. Stylist usually captures our attention with his reactionary manner, but the classy player is usually more subtle and makes us remember him long after the cheering stops. My personal "style" picks: Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Shaquille O'Neal, Larry Johnson, Deion Sanders, Michael Irvin, Andre Rison, Gregg Jefferies, John Starks, Reggie Miller, Dennis Rodman, Jim McMahon and John Kruk.

This exercise in style vs. class is particularly appropriate this month, as we offer our "Head of the Class" story, authored by Darryl Howerton, in which we detail our picks for the classiest players in the NBA—and those with, shall I say, more style than class. Our purpose is to celebrate those individuals, such as Joe Dumars, who are often overlooked by the fans, but complete their jobs with purpose and integrity. They may be soft-spoken, but they speak loudly when they hit the court.

Detroit Pistons fans receive a double dose of Grant Hill this issue. The rookie forward not only was named to our all-class team, but is one of three NBA players featured in our article, "The Jordan Heirs." Along with Latrell Sprewell and Anfernee Hardaway, Hill, we believe, is one of the brightest stars—dare we say Jordanesque?—in the NBA.

Dikembe Mutombo is yet another class individual gracing the pages of SPORT this month. Mutombo recently traveled to his native homeland in Zaire, bringing along Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning for a special charity tour of the country. Mutombo hasn't forgotten his roots, which can't be said for all pro athletes who make it big.

We hope you enjoy our annual swimsuit section, bigger and better than ever. Eight terrific models, photographer David Mecey and marketing manager Ira Gabriel worked to exceed all previous quality levels in the creation of a classy and beautiful swimsuit edition, photographed at the Hilton Waikoloa Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii. I can comfortably say that they'll have a difficult time next year bettering the standards they set this year.

Class vs style: a discussion offering perhaps more insight into the individuals doing the rating than about those being rated. I'd like to hear your opinions. Make up your own list of 10 or so individuals that fit your style and class definitions. For your efforts, I'll send you a handsome SPORT pin.

Best Regards,

BASEBALL IS BACK!

Well, maybe not officially, but next month, SPORT offers an exclusive players poll that checks the pulse of the league. Also, our five-man panel of experts rates the field talent for 1995, and Jose Canseco stops in for a few candid quips.

All next month in

SPORT

Post cards we have received from **ICEHOUSE** admirers.

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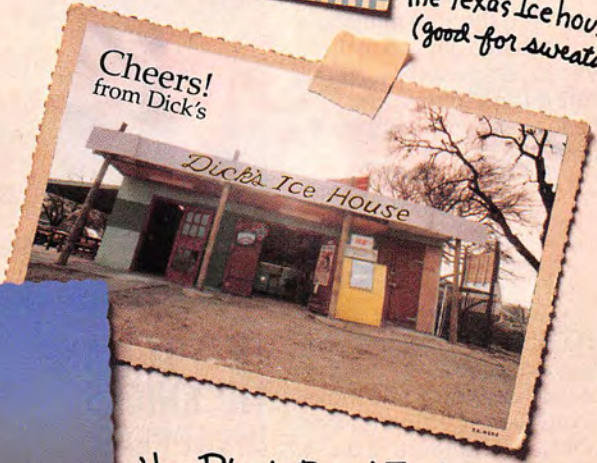
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ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

How can you even consider making Emmitt Smith (pictured) the SPORT Athlete of the Year (January)? Smith can't even compare to some of your other finalists, and even worse, you failed to include a running back—Barry Sanders—who's better than he is. Here's why Emmitt's a no-go: He runs behind the best blockers in football. Smith takes a handoff, has a hole the size of Texas cleared for him by Erik Williams and Nate Newton, then just rides fullback Daryl Johnston's shoulders the rest of the way. Sanders doesn't even have fullbacks. He runs all over the field dodging would-be tacklers and crawling through miniscule holes just to get two or three yards. So despite winning decisions in the past, I'd have to say you fumbled this one.

Shawn Regan
Downingtown,
Pennsylvania

I was reading your SPORT Athlete of the Year issue and couldn't understand how you could make Troy Aikman a finalist and not Barry Sanders or Jerry Rice. They deserve it more. And there are a lot of basketball players better than Hakeem Olajuwon. David Robinson, Patrick Ewing, Larry Johnson, Chris Webber, Jamal Mashburn and Shawn Kemp are all good examples. It's not like Hakeem won the championship all by himself.

Now for my last question: Why did you acknowledge baseball? It was too short of a season to establish a player of the year. You might as well have done hockey.

Reza Taheri
Sacramento, California

MITCHELL B. REIBEL



THEY'LL MAKE THE KNICKS DISAPPEAR

I'm writing in response to Brian Haviland's letter (Sport Mail, January) that questioned your magazine's choice of the Orlando Magic as the Eastern Conference champions. That's very typical of a New York Knicks fan. The Horace Grant signing has taken Orlando to the next level, in addition to the continued improvement of Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee Hardaway. I respect the team the Knicks have assembled, but this is not wrestling or football. Orlando has shown a good combination of power and fi-

nesse in compiling one of the top records in the league. The Magic is on the rise and the Knicks are at a point where it's time to put up or shut up. It also appears that Patrick Ewing is on the decline. SPORT couldn't have been more correct in picking the Magic.

Kirk Hammer
Richmond, Virginia

HOOSIER OVERHYPE?

I don't know how you could pick Indiana in your top 10 ("College Basketball Top 25," January). With the Hoosiers' loss of Damon Bailey, Alan Henderson

can't possibly carry the team through its Big Ten schedule and the NCAA tournament. Bobby Knight is a great coach, but he can't work miracles with the team he has. On the positive side, I loved the special section on Shaq's impact and the interview with Karl Malone.

Kevin Block
St. Louis, Missouri

HANDS OFF PHOENIX

Rick Weinberg says Phoenix doesn't have enough on the defensive end to win an NBA title come June (Sport Beat, January). In past years, I might have agreed, but 1995 is the year of the offense. When the NBA took hand-checking out of the game, it freed the guards and forwards from the shackles they had been under. Your best teams now, Phoenix and Orlando, happen to be the best offensive teams in the league. I expect this to carry over to the playoffs, unlike in past years, where the postseason became a game of who had the better halfcourt team.

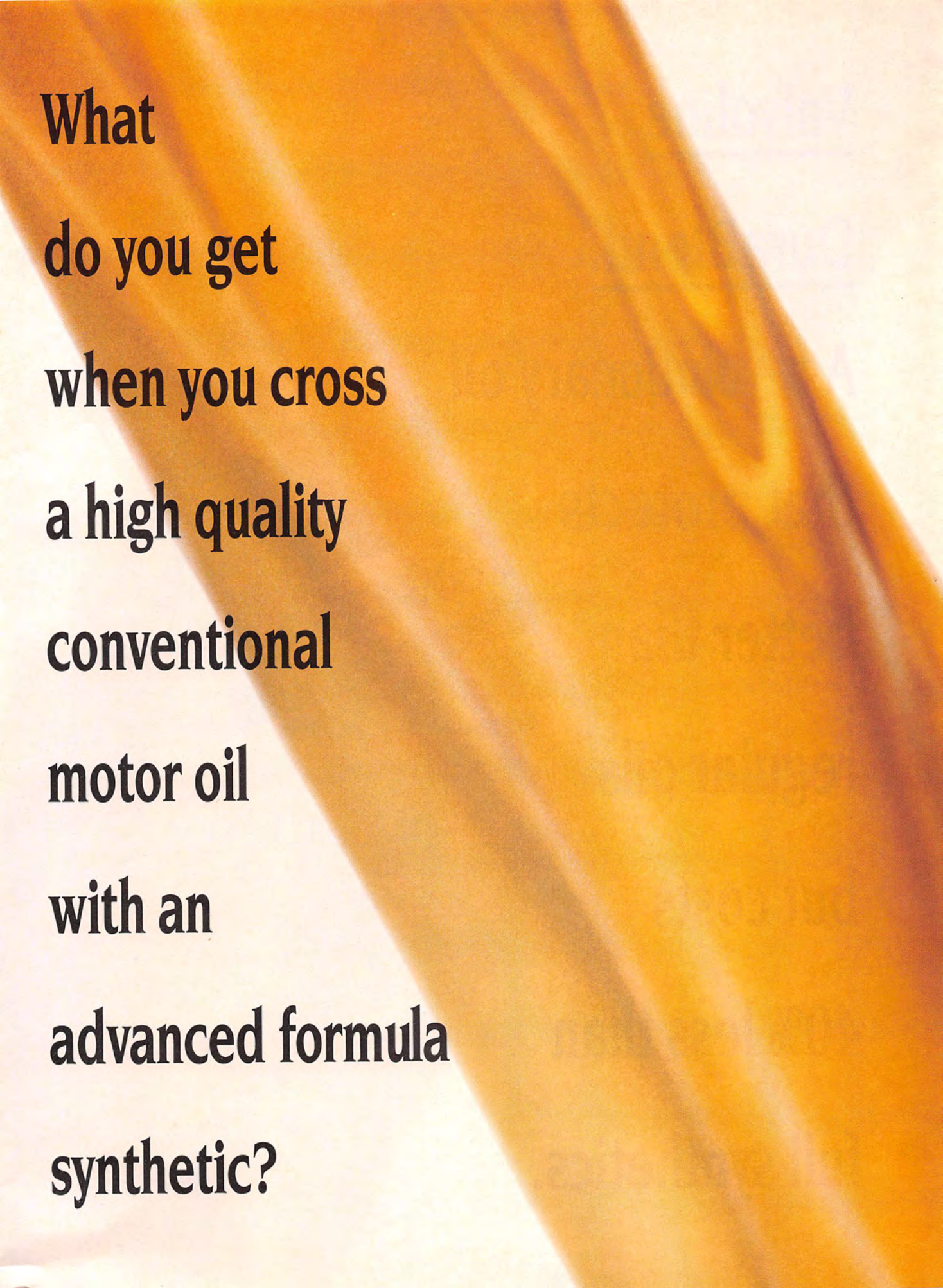
Dontay Moore
Beverly Hills, California

REMEMBER THE NAME

I'm not criticizing Todd Christensen's rating of the tight ends (Sport Talk, January), I'm just saying that if Jackie Harris weren't injured for most of 1994, he'd rank much higher than sixth. Remember the name: Jackie Harris.

Bill Muzik
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Argue with us, applaud us, advise us. Address your letters to SPORT Mail, 6420 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90048, or fax us at 213-782-2835.



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Picture Perfect



Dolores



Brooke



Danielle



Shannon



Rosie



Alesha



Christine



Shana

A behind-the-scenes look at the swimsuit issue/by Ira Gabriel



The Hilton Waikoloa Village Lagoon provides the picture-perfect backdrop.



Assistant Billy White and Shannon measure up at the Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort & Spa.



The Hilton's Jim Rossi was always a call away, willing to lend a helping hand.



When renting, Danielle, Christine and Denise Russell always travel on a Budget.



David and Danielle prove you need not travel to Miami to encounter dolphins.



Manning the mermaid: Thomas Garces and Christine.



Brooke and Billy can attest that the Kawasaki JET SKI@ Watercraft stole the show.



Alesha, Danielle, Christine and Rosie brighten the scenery at the Hilton Waikoloa Village.



Photographer David Mecey puts the lens to Shannon and his ideal shot.



No one made waves about the tough conditions during one late afternoon shoot.



Three weeks and 62 acres of food, fun and sun left the crew longing for more.



Black-sand beaches are hard to reach on the Big Island—unless of course you have Jet Skis.



The crew at times would rest its tired sea legs aboard Capt. Jeff McConnel's Seasmoke.



All good things must come to an end: The crew lounges in Kona Airport.



The Kawasaki JET SKI® 750ZXi is an indelible cure for the summertime blues.

It's early morning and the hotel phone rings. An unmistakable voice on the other end instructs me to wake up. It's a voice I'd recognize anywhere, even half-asleep here in beautiful Hawaii. After all, it's not every night the western advertising manager of SPORT Magazine serenades the crew with Karaoke, as he did just hours earlier. "I think we're having a tsunami!" Kenny Rudolph yells. Upon further review, he was right. What ensued during the next 60 minutes was an incredible mobilization of the hotel guests, aided by a dedicated staff at the Hilton Waikoloa Village that led us to the promised land, the golf course high above sea level. The travel magazine had promised I'd see the course. The tsunami ensured it. No harm done. The great wave-to-be couldn't fill a New York City pot hole. But it was the effort of the Hilton Waikoloa Village staff during this scare that left a great impression.

Those who remember past SPORT swimsuit issues will feel right at home with Shannon Stone, an alumnus of three SPORT Magazine campaigns. Shannon single-handedly lit up the Hawaiian skies with her smile and sweetness. Dolores came to life in front of the camera and had more moves in her than Indiana Pacers coach Larry Brown. (Brown has changed teams so frequently during his career, his contract specifies that his company car be a U-Haul.)

It didn't take long for the crew to get to know Rosie Tenison, who has the look great swimsuit issues are made of: sexy, sophisticated and simply smashing. Her personality and great attitude prompted a few of our crew members to work overtime. At first glance, you'd think Tampa resident Alesha Oreskovich was a successful business woman from Wall Street. She probably will be someday. For now, she's a stunning model who, placed in front of a camera, can light it up like Reggie Miller from three-point land.



The Boys Club of Kona (top photo) receives a trampoline from the crew at SPORT moments before jumpers rained from downtown in the new youth gymnasium. The 1995 swimsuit television and issue photo crews (above) take a minute to gather for a shot of their own.

Picture Perfect

Shana Sechler was quoted in the video as saying she didn't get a chance to smile much. Well, when news broke that she was the 1995 SPORT Magazine cover model, she certainly made up for it. Brooke Burke can make any day seem like time well-spent in paradise, and her good looks, charm and professionalism can make any crew an award winner.

Danielle Corley not only competed in the Miss South Carolina contest this past year, she swam with dolphins during our shoot! Oh, yeah, she also won the Miss South Carolina pageant. Christine Wilson was the perfect mermaid. When she

arrived at our casting, photographer David Mecey leaned over to me and smiled, which could only have meant one of two things: He'd gotten a new computer upgrade or he'd just seen his type of model: fresh, innocent and beautiful. Christine was all the above.

Hilton Hotels Corp. vice president of corporate marketing Jeff Diskin assured me that our 40 cast and crew members would be made to feel at ease within the picturesque grounds of this incredible hotel. For three weeks, we were hosted by general manager Dieter Seeger's elite staff at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii. Much of our time was spent at the property's six restaurants: the Palm Terrace, the Kamuela Provision Company, the Orchid Cafe, Hang Ten Bar, Donatoni's and Imari.

Built on 62 beautiful acres, the property is divided into three towers that resemble individual hotels connected by an elaborate tram and boat system. As guests, we enjoyed such amenities as tennis, swimming, golf, Jacuzzis, tropical gardens, beaches, steam baths, Tai-Chi...well, you get the idea. The Hilton Waikoloa Village's Jim Rossi contributed a great deal of his time to helping our crew. As a result, our crew accomplished more in three short weeks than most seasoned crews could in three months. Jim was an important part of our success.

Assistant catering manager Gladys Ovesen and Ivis Rose were sights for sore eyes and provided all our marvelous accessories. Thomas Garces, director of security, was truly a good sport. We called on him for the mermaid scene with model Christine. Now, I know Thomas received

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some ribbing from his buddies in the Hilton security department, but I'd like to go on record and

say that Thomas was working. Hey, it's not like mermaids can walk by themselves!

One of the truly unique shots involved our encounter with the dolphins at the Hilton Waikoloa Village at Dolphin Quest. Supervising trainer George Berliner and production manager Jeffrey Smith were kind enough to allow us to get wet and be one with the mammals. Dolphin Quest is committed to the conservation of marine mammals and the marine ecosystem through carefully designed, educational public-display programs that inspire appreciation and understanding. The way George, Jeff and crew treated the dolphins, it's no wonder hundreds of people travel to Hawaii just to see them.

Even before we made our trek to the Big Island, marketing systems manager Vicki Kometani was raving about the beautiful Hawaiian weather. She wasn't kidding. For nearly three weeks, there wasn't a cloud in the sky, the temperature remaining in the upper 80s. The only cold front came from the two assistants after I cut the training time on their Kawasaki JET SKI® 750ZXi runs. Before the

trip, I figured a watercraft would be similar to riding in a super-cool convertible on the highway with a car up ahead spraying you with windshield fluid. Reality check. Test one-two. I was dead wrong. A Kawasaki JET SKI® 750ZXi watercraft is a super-smooth handling, sit-down-and-hold-on machine. According to Kawasaki Motors' Mark Homchick, who provided the vehicles, they hum! But they're functional as well. Gas gauge, storage compartment in the front, extra-long seat for an additional rider. It's a 2-stroke, 2-cylinder, 743 cc, hunka, hunka burnin' love. (It should be noted that you don't have to be shooting a swimsuit issue to enjoy and marvel at this watercraft. But eight models riding alongside you certainly couldn't hurt!)

This year, we paid a return visit to Ocean Sports Waikoloa and Capt. Jeff McConnel. Diane Quitiquit, from the County of Hawaii's Department of Research and Development, provided many helpful tips and comments.

Photographer David Mecey brought his treasure chest full of talent. Working with David is like watching Emmitt Smith. Under adverse conditions, they both give it their best shot and keep getting better. In a flash, David and his crew captured the beauty of not only the women but the island. Photo assistants Ric Moore and Billy White, together with a new fish from the sea, Joe-Baby, proved that having reliable helping hands produces great results. Makeup artist Michelle van der Hule was around to provide her usual dose of magic, as was stylist Heidi Tuininga, responsible for putting together the fantastic swimsuits and props seen on the following pages.

Denise Russell joined the crew for her second year and could always be found communicating with the dolphins. To say that Petersen special-events director Beth Stewart and special-events coordinator Lorin Fleisher simply helped plan would be doing them an injustice. They did it all, very well. And then there was Kenny Rudolph, who provided excitement, handed out

(Continued on page 100)



what

attracts?

this

is what

attracts.



for men and for women

1972 THE PERFECT SEASON



FIGHTING OFF INJURIES AND UPSET-MINDED RIVALS, THE MIAMI DOLPHINS ACHIEVE UNPARALLELED GREATNESS BY JEFF RYAN

The 1972 Miami Dolphins seemed unlikely candidates for immortality. They utilized a no-name defense and an offensive scheme so bland, it was as tough to watch as it was to stop. In Week 2, they lost their love for their home field, and in Week 5, they lost their Hall of Fame quarterback. Eventually, though, the Dolphins also lost their detractors because the one thing they *didn't* lose all season was a game.

After turning back the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII, the Dolphins finished their campaign a perfect 17-0. They survived some close calls and relied on divine intervention a time or two. But Miami had created a standard of true excellence that is appreciated far more now than it was on that Super Sunday when the Dolphins walked out of the Los Angeles Coliseum with the Vince Lombardi trophy in hand.

"As more great teams are unable to duplicate it, it's a feat that becomes more impressive," says Bob Griese, the quarterback of that Dolphins squad. "Going undefeated in the NFL is tough. I don't think it will be done again."

At times during that '72 season, it appeared that not even the Dolphins would go undefeated. After easy wins at Kansas City and at home against Houston, Miami needed a desperate rally in Week 3 at Minnesota. Trailing 14-6 with 4:34 remaining, Miami's Garo Yepremian kicked a 51-yard field goal, the longest of his career at the time. Then Griese hit tight end Jim Mandich with a three-yard touchdown pass for the win.

After frustrating the New York Jets at Shea Stadium, the Dolphins returned to the Orange Bowl in Week 5 and felt their hearts sink when Griese was leveled by San Diego defensive end Deacon Jones. The quarterback suffered a broken right leg and dislocated ankle. His replacement: 38-year-old, crew-cutted Earl Morrall, who had led the Baltimore Colts to the Super Bowl three years earlier while filling in for an injured Johnny Unitas.

Some Dolphins would later admit that they thought their title hopes had vanished the moment Griese went down, but

Running back Larry Csonka's bruising, methodical style epitomized the '72 Miami attack. The Dolphins produced little highlight material but got the job done.



the Morrall of this story is that Miami

was too strong at too many positions to be devastated by the loss of one star. The defense, though unknown, was solid. The bullish Larry Csonka, versatile Jim Kiick and speedy Mercury Morris keyed the running game. And future Hall of Famer Paul Warfield was the deep threat.

The only drawback was that Miami scoring drives were not the stuff of which highlight films are made. Typical of the bland game plan was a midseason meeting with the Baltimore Colts, when the Dolphins threw just 16 passes and ran 52 times.

"One of the reasons our defense was so good was that it wasn't on the field much," Griese says. "We were a running team. A lot of teams today wish they could control the ball like we did. They could use some of our blandness."

Miami's attack might have been characterized as your typical "three yards and a cloud of dust" if not for one factor: There was no dust. The

SPORT ARCHIVE

GREAT TEAMS

Orange Bowl grass had been replaced with an artificial surface called Poly-Turf. Rock-hard and slippery, it was about as popular with the players as curfew. After the Houston game, Csonka said, "Technology has advanced to the point where it's capable of finishing every player before his time."

As with all the other obstacles, though, Miami just found a way to overcome it. After Morrall came off the bench to vanquish San Diego, the Dolphins squeaked by Buffalo, 24-23. They shut out the Colts in Baltimore, beat the Bills in Buffalo, pasted the Patriots, 52-0, in Miami, then edged the Jets, 28-24, in an Orange Bowl rematch. How deliberate was Miami's offense? Consider this: Morrall's 31-yard touchdown run in the Jets game was the team's longest scoring run of the year.

Miami improved to 11-0 with a 31-10 thrashing of the St. Louis Cardinals, won at New England, then

turned back the New York Giants at a muddy Yankee Stadium.

"After that game was the first time we thought of going undefeated," says linebacker Nick Buoniconti. "The thing people don't understand is that it was never a primary goal of ours. We got our asses beat by Dallas in the Super Bowl the year before, and going back was all the guys were thinking about."

The Dolphins' defense got its third shutout of the year when it blanked Baltimore in the regular-season finale. In 14 games, the no names had surrendered just 171 points. "Not even Griesse gives the defense enough credit," Buoniconti says. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime chemistry of very intelligent players. We were never out of position."

Cleveland fell in the first playoff contest, 20-14, then the Dolphins beat Pittsburgh, 21-17, in the AFC championship game. The Steelers, fresh off Franco Harris' "Immaculate Reception," were pumped. Miami was flat until Griesse relieved Morrall and hit Warfield with a 52-yard bomb to set up the go-ahead touchdown. The Dolphins were Super Bowl-bound again.

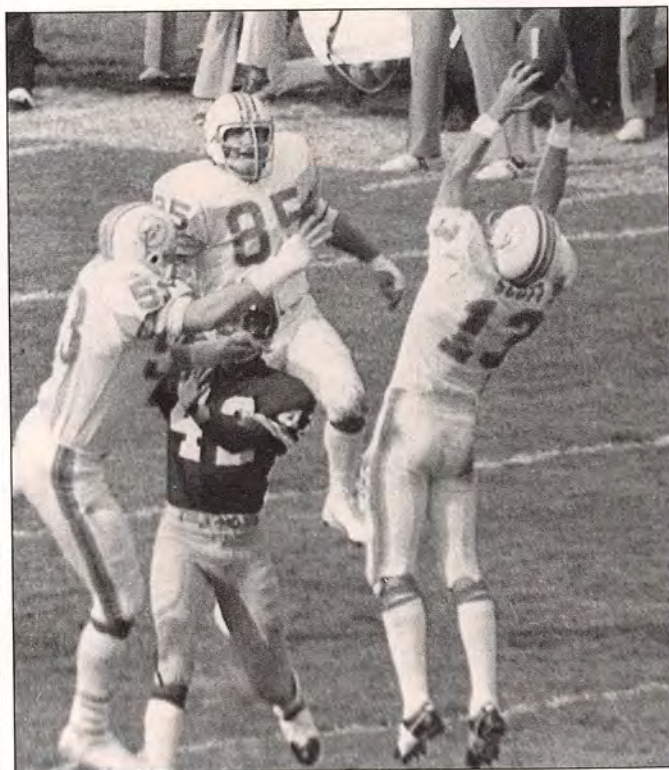
"But still underdogs to Washington," Buoniconti gripes.

Miami made the Redskins pay for the oddsmakers' show of disrespect, reaching that level of perfection almost never ascended to in any pro sport, not even by the most dominant. The Green Bay Packers never went unbeaten for a season. Nor did Steffi Graf. Secretariat even lost in his Triple Crown year. The '72 Dolphins claim that rarely explored territory for themselves, until that day when someone else proves good enough to share it with them. *If* that day ever comes.

Unbeaten and untied.

Unreal. ★

Miami's "no-name defense" lost its anonymity after surrendering just 171 points in 14 regular-season games.



CLASS OF '72

Dolphins Roster

OFFENSIVE STARTERS

WR—Paul Warfield
LT—Wayne Moore
LG—Bob Kuechenberg
C—Jim Langer
RG—Larry Little
RT—Norm Evans
TE—Marv Fleming
WR—Howard Twilley
QB—Bob Griesse
RB—Jim Kiick
RB—Larry Csonka

DEFENSIVE STARTERS

LE—Vern Den Herder
LT—Manny Fernandez
RT—Bob Heinz
RE—Bill Stanfill
LLB—Doug Swift
MLB—Nick Buoniconti
RLB—Mike Kolen
LC—Lloyd Mumford
RC—Curtis Johnson
LS—Dick Anderson
RS—Jake Scott

KEY RESERVES

Charles Babb, Larry Ball, Marlin Briscoe, Doug Crusan, Hubert Ginn, Ed Jenkins, Howard Kindig, Charles Leigh, Jim Mandich, Bob Matheson, Earl Morrall, Maulty Moore, Mercury Morris, Jesse Powell, Larry Seiple, Henry Stuckey, Otto Stowe and Garo Yepremian.

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing: Earl Morrall, 1,360 yards
Rushing: Larry Csonka, 1,117 yards
Receptions: Paul Warfield, 29 catches, 606 yards
Punt Returns: Charles Leigh, 210 yards
Kickoff Returns: Mercury Morris, 334 yards
Punting: Larry Seiple, 39.9 average
Kicking: Garo Yepremian, 43 extra points, 24 field goals

1972 THE PERFECT SEASON



SOLID GOLD

THESE FREE AGENTS PROVED THEY WERE WORTH THE BIG MONEY



Cecil Fielder

Athletes have made millions thanks to free agency, but only a select few have excelled after taking the free-agent route. The following is our list of the 10 best free agents of all time. No doubt we'll leave plenty of room for argument.

1. REGGIE JACKSON: After signing a five-year, \$2.9 million contract with the New York Yankees in the winter of 1976, Jackson told *SPORT Magazine* he was "the straw that stirred the drink." That statement angered many of his new teammates, but Reggie backed up his boast, averaging 29 homers and 92 RBI in pinstripes. But it was his flair for the dramatics that made him a legend. Reggie excelled in the postseason, hitting three home

runs in a single World Series game.

2. DAVE WINFIELD: Winfield took a lot of verbal abuse from owner George Steinbrenner in his nine-plus years with the Yankees, the worst coming in 1985 when Steinbrenner facetiously nicknamed Winfield "Mr. May" for not producing in the later months of the season. But one has to wonder whom Steinbrenner was watching, for Winfield drove in 100 runs six times during his years in New York.

3. MOSES MALONE: From 1977-82, the Philadelphia 76ers always seemed to come up a big game or two short of winning an NBA title. Not the case in '83, after they snagged this 6-foot-10 center from the Houston Rockets. Mal-

(Continued on page 22)

BOOK REVIEW

STAND AND DELIVER

Hawk: An Inspiring Story of Success at the Game of Life and Baseball, by Andre Dawson with Tom Bird (Zondervan Publishing House, \$17.99, 207 pages).

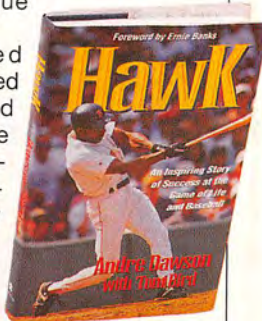
Andre Dawson successfully writes his autobiography in three parts: his accomplishments in baseball, the business underside of the sport, and the importance of his family and the strength and support they provided throughout his career.

Hawk begins with the day in Wrigley Field in Chicago when a fan yelled from the bleachers, urging Dawson to leave the Montreal Expos, where he was having contract problems, and sign with the Cubs as a free agent. Dawson did just that in 1987, achieving his greatest success in baseball that year, winning the National League MVP.

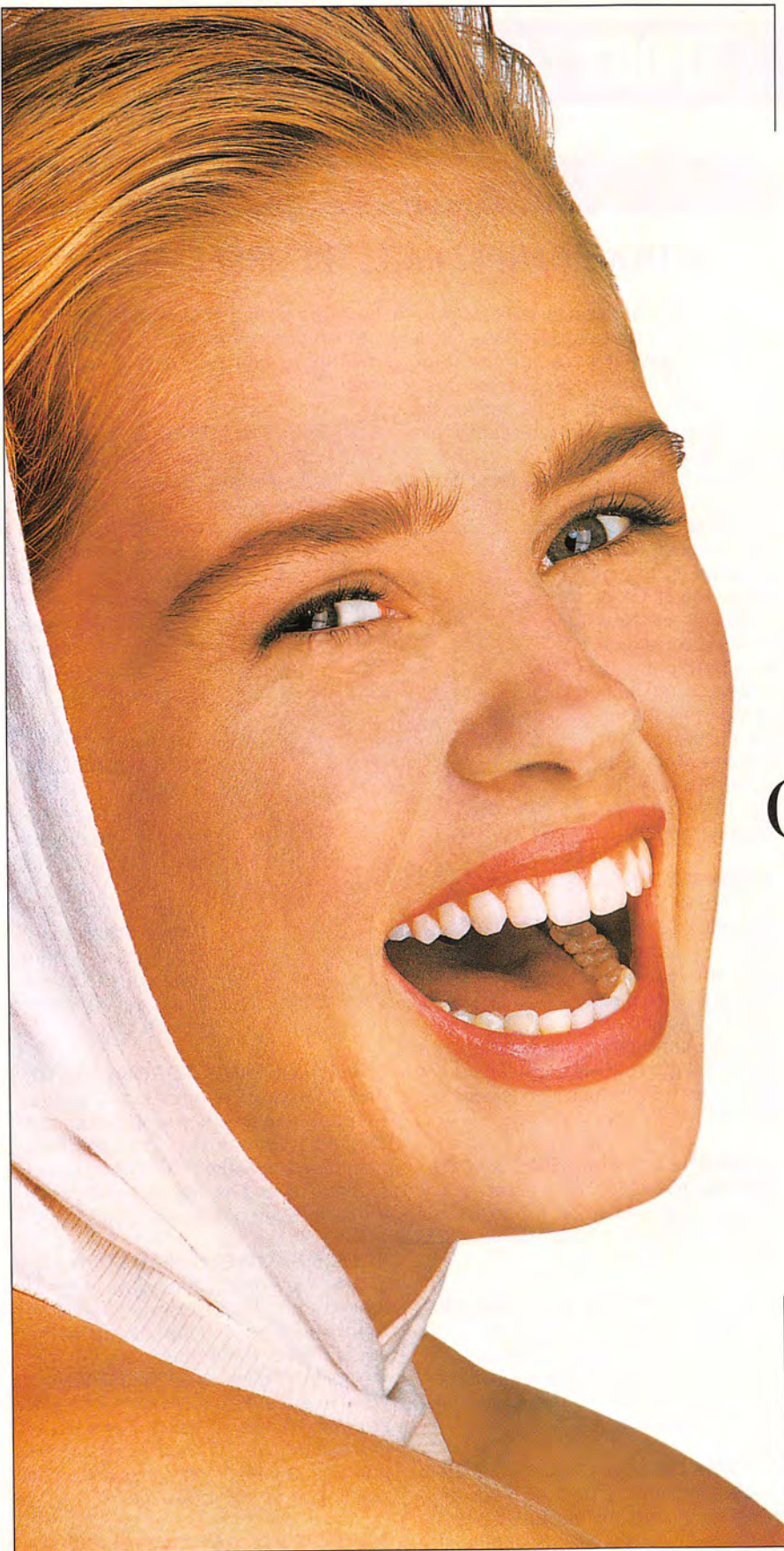
Dawson loved Chicago, was adored by its fans and planned to retire there—until he received what he perceived as shoddy treatment from Cubs general manager Larry Himes.

Throughout his bouts with knee ailments, Dawson was buoyed by his faith and the support of his family, recalling the wisdom of his beloved grandmother in periods of difficulty. Dawson is now passing along his positive attitude to the young rookies and will certainly inspire anyone who reads this captivating story.

—Catherine Doyle



EDITED BY WILLIAM LADSON & RAYMOND HARPER



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DROPS...
A BURST
OF WHITE
I CAN
FEEL.”



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GENTLE ENOUGH TO USE EVERY TIME YOU BRUSH.

(Continued from page 20)

one proved to be the driving force for the Sixers in their championship run, averaging 25 points and 15 rebounds while capturing league and playoff MVP honors.

4. CECIL FIELDER: After failed attempts to acquire Pete O'Brien or Kent Hrbek to play first base, the frustrated Detroit Tigers gambled and signed Fielder, the floundering former Toronto Blue Jay, to a two-year, \$3 million contract. Fielder proved a bargain in his first season in the Motor City, hitting a major-league-leading 51 homers and driving in 132 runs.

5. GREG MADDUX: This virtually unhittable right-handed hurler won a Cy Young Award with the Chicago Cubs in 1992 and never missed a beat after signing with the Atlanta Braves, where he's earned two more Cy Youngs, in '93 and '94. Think the Cubs miss him?

6. BARRY BONDS: Most athletes would have crumbled under the pressure of signing a six-year, \$43.75 million contract. Not Bonds, who posted monster numbers en route to the National League MVP in his first season with the San Francisco Giants in 1993, then again put up MVP-type numbers in '94.

7. MEL GRAY: In 1989, the New Orleans Saints let kickoff-return specialist Gray become a Plan B free agent and sign with the Detroit Lions. No doubt the Saints regretted the move, as Gray was selected to three Pro Bowl teams in Detroit and holds the all-time record for kickoff-return yards.

8. TOM CHAMBERS: Many believe he saved the Phoenix Suns from sure destruction after the team became embroiled in a drug controversy. In 1988-89, his first season with the club, Chambers averaged 26 points and guided the Suns to the Western Conference finals.

9. JAY NOVACEK: Another NFL player who benefited from Plan B free agency, Novacek signed with the Dallas Cowboys in 1990 and has gone on to lead all tight ends in receptions since that time, three times earning Pro Bowl honors.

10. JIM PLUNKETT: In 1978, this former Heisman Trophy winner appeared washed up after seven disappointing seasons with the New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers. But L.A. Raiders owner Al Davis rescued Plunkett, who became a two-time Super Bowl winner for the silver and black.

—William Ladson

BASEBALL

KEITH HERNANDEZ RATES THE FIRST BASEMEN

Keith Hernandez may not have written the book on playing first base, but he certainly gave it a dramatic reading across a 17-year career. Hernandez's range, instincts and daring defined the position for a generation and earned him 11 Gold Gloves.

Except for a 43-game swan song with Cleveland in 1990, Hernandez's career was confined to the National League, split between the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Mets. Hernandez, who plans to resurface into public view this season as a broadcaster with the Mets, was asked to rate the top 10 *fielding* first basemen today.



1. DON MATTINGLY, NEW YORK YANKEES:

"He's head and shoulders above everyone else. He has good range and an accurate arm with a quick release on the double-play throw. He doesn't have any fancy-Dan moves; he's all-business and gets it done."

2. ANDRES GALARRAGA, COLORADO ROCKIES:

"He's big and burly, but quite agile. At times, he looks more awkward than he actually is. He reacts well for a man of his size."

3. WILL CLARK, TEXAS RANGERS:

"Clark could be No. 2 if only he wasn't so fancy with everything. It's almost like he's still playing in college, with cheerleaders on the side. He puts a little mustard on everything."

4. MARK GRACE, CHICAGO CUBS:

"He's all business. He doesn't do anything fancy, but any ball he gets to, he handles flawlessly. He is exceptional in every category but his range."

5. MARK MCGWIRE, OAKLAND A'S:

"He is very sure-handed. He doesn't

have great range but reacts quickly to balls hit near him. When his legs are healthy, he has good mobility for a big man."

6. RAFAEL PALMEIRO, BALTIMORE ORIOLES:

"Beyond the top five, there's a considerable drop. You start to get into the area where first base fulfills its reputation as the place to hide people. And if you look at it as a place to hide a slugger, no one does more on the offensive side [than Palmeiro]."

7. WALLY JOYNER, KANSAS CITY ROYALS:

"It's a great edge to be left-handed. He makes the most of what he's got, though I haven't seen anything extraordinary from him to validate the reputation he had when he came into the league."

8. JOHN OLERUD, TORONTO BLUE JAYS:

"Having Roberto Alomar's range to his right makes him look better, but Olerud also makes good use of his height, which makes him a good target to throw to, and he can drop into one of the better stretches around today."

9. JEFF BAGWELL, HOUSTON ASTROS:

"He's one of those guys who has moved around from position to position before settling in at first. It can be the equivalent of that table by the kitchen the maitre d' gives to people he doesn't want seen, especially in the National League, where you can't hide a bat at DH. But Bagwell has some tools and is aggressive with his arm, which can be very important at this position."

10. EDDIE MURRAY, CLEVELAND INDIANS:

"He had all the tools and can still do an adequate job. But he doesn't really want to be seen on the field anymore."

—Tom Singer

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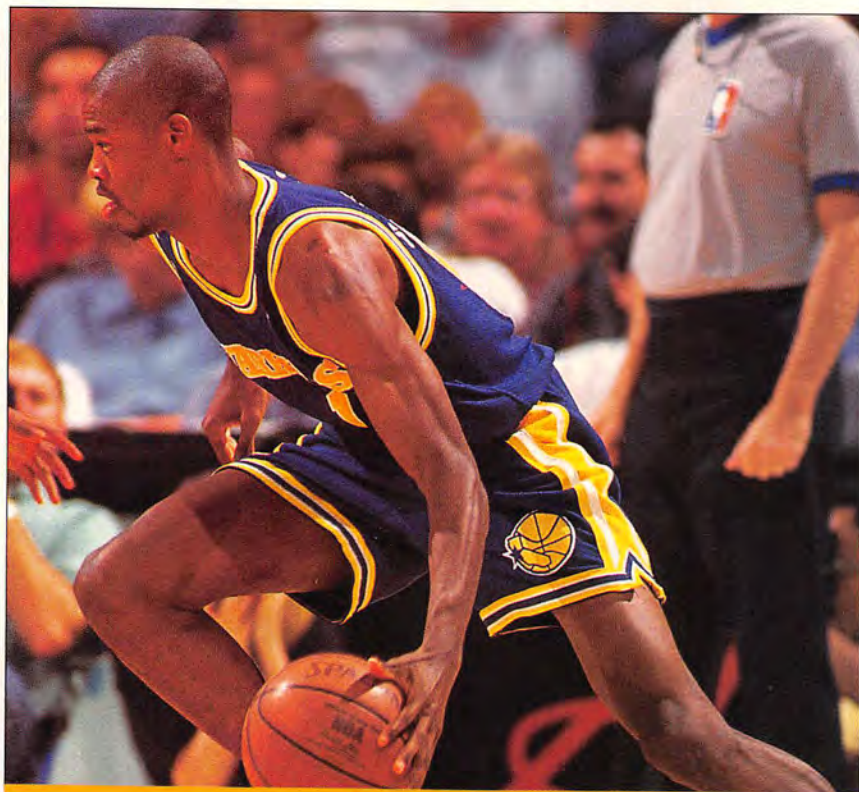
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BOB ROSATO

BASKETBALL

THE NBA'S LUCKY NUMBER

If recent history is any indication, look for Monty Williams' career to take off at any moment.

The New York Knicks rookie forward was the 24th pick of last year's NBA draft, a number that has spelled great success for winning franchises that have landed that spot.

In 1992, the Golden State Warriors selected Latrell Sprewell with the 24th pick. The following year, the Houston Rockets chose Sam Cassell at No. 24.

"There's nothing magical about it," says Sprewell, who averaged 21 points and five rebounds last season. "It's just a coincidence."

Coincidence or no, Sprewell (pictured) has since become a first-team All-NBA shooting guard, while Cassell was a key contributor in the Rockets' championship drive last season.

Will Williams be the next benefactor? "It's just a matter of time," says California Golden Bears head coach Todd Bozeman, who was an assistant coach for Williams' high school team in Potomac, Md. "I told people when he got drafted 24th that he was the steal

of the draft."

Many scouts shared Bozeman's sentiments, but NBA teams were leery of drafting the 6-foot-8, 225-pound forward because of a heart condition that sidelined him for two seasons at Notre Dame.

"I can't be the next steal if I don't get any minutes," says Williams. "[Head coach Pat Riley] plays different lineups every night. But I like my situation here because in our offense I have a lot of freedom to create. Coach likes the way I handle the ball. Maybe two or three years down the line you'll be able to say [I was a steal], but not right now."

Warriors superscout Ed Gregory, who helped find Sprewell, agrees that No. 24 will once again be a good one, but adds: "The real steal of the draft came one pick before No. 24, Wesley Person at 23. I thought he'd go in the top 15."

But it's Williams who was selected at lucky No. 24, and that bodes well for both him and the Knicks.

—Darryl Howerton

BUSINESS

PROSPECTIVE OWNERS

What do Isiah Thomas, Magic Johnson, Deron Cherry and George Brett have in common? All are prominent ex-jocks who are part-owners of sports franchises.

More athletes will follow into the ownership ranks "depending on how good I do," says Thomas, who is also the vice president of basketball operations for the Toronto Raptors and the most active of the four.

Yet former athletes cannot simply walk into ownership with a fistful of cash; previous business experience is a prerequisite as well. Take Cherry, new part-owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, who runs a Budweiser distributorship in Kansas City.

"I broke into football making \$19,000 as a free-agent punter in 1981," he says. "Your [ownership] partners won't respect you if you don't have business experience. The NFL is not looking for token ownership."

Ownership is not for all former athletes. Many of them don't have the expertise in labor negotiations or know-how to nurture a relationship with the corporate community.

"One baseball owner told me, 'I have 27 jackasses for partners—I never had to deal with this in my other business,'" says baseball agent Barry Axelrod, whose clients include Jeff Bagwell and Mark Grace.

Would Axelrod advise Bagwell and Grace to one day invest some of their money into a team?

"I still believe it's a viable business and investment," he says. "I would encourage right-minded people to be involved in it."

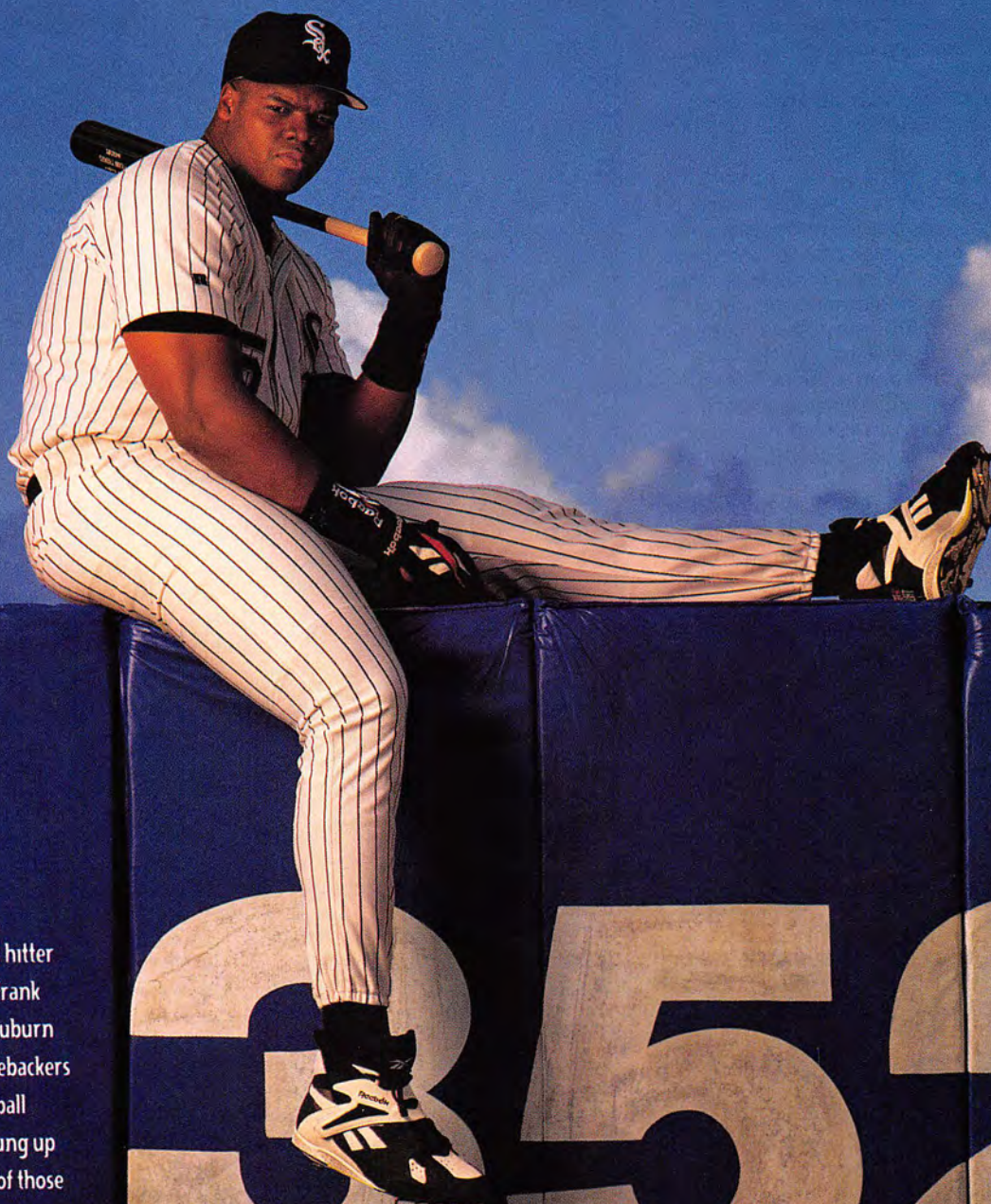
—George Castle




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SPORT TALK

BASKETBALL

SHOWTIME

There's no more exciting play in the NBA than a slam dunk. It stokes the crowd and even soaks the players on the floor in their best competitive lather. That same kind of excitement drives "Jam Central," a new breed of "sports and more" program on ESPN.

The show, which debuted last November on both ESPN and ESPN2, airs three times weekly using a rotating cadre of athletes and supermodels who serve as hosts. Although to some, the airwaves already may seem on the verge of saturation with a plethora of sports and interview-type shows, "Jam Central" breaks the mold in that it melds personality profile pieces with lifetime segments about sports, music and fashion. "It allows us to take on sports from a different perspective—show its more entertaining side, behind the scenes, not just settling for the on-court highlights," says Josh Krulewitz, an ESPN spokesman.

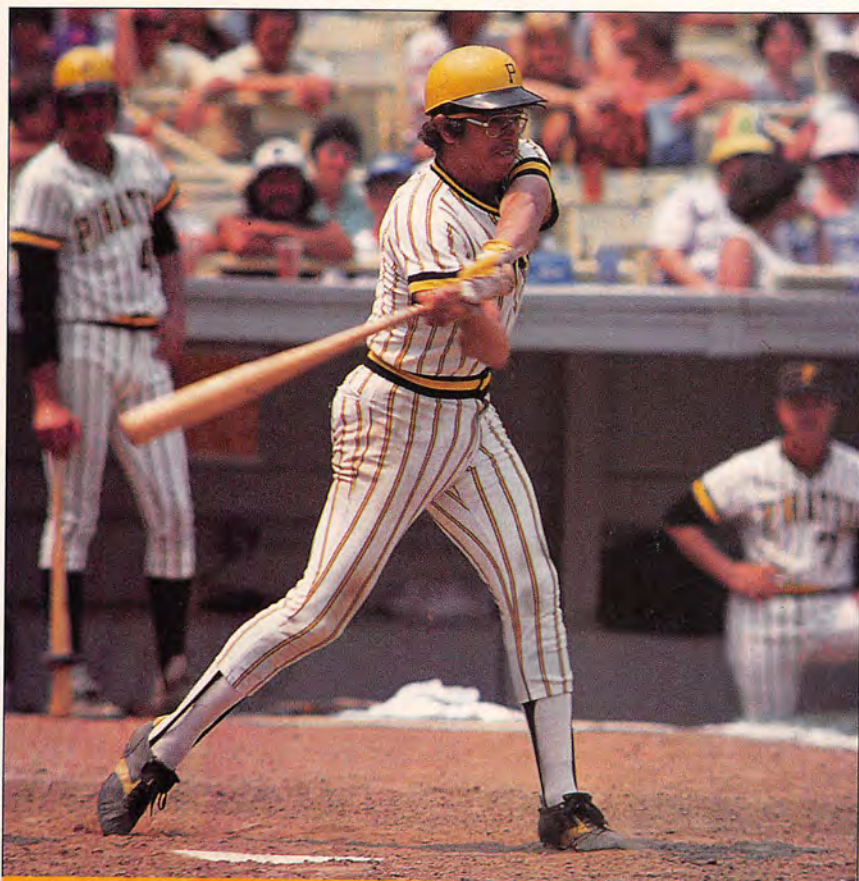
Yet highlights are not ignored either. "X-AM Slam Jam," a regular segment on the show, replays the NBA's most spectacular dunks of the week. "Slam Jam," sponsored by Sun Apparel, manufacturer and marketer of X-AM jeans, is a must-see for basketball junkies as well as the occasional viewer.

To this point, hosts of "Jam Central" have included New Jersey Nets stars Kenny Anderson and Derrick Coleman, and Muggsy Bogues of the Charlotte Hornets (pictured). Bogues, for one, has favorable impressions of his appearance. "You're acting like yourself, so a lot of athletes [who host] can really loosen up and enjoy the show."

—Raymond Harper



DAVID LUMKIN



BASEBALL

THE MENDOZA LINE

Mario Mendoza was on the phone, calling from below the borderline. But he didn't want to talk about *the* line.

"Is that what this is about?" the affable former major-league infielder asked from Guasave, Mexico. "I like to talk about everything. Except that."

"That" is the Mendoza Line. And what is the Mendoza Line? It's a .200 batting average, an imaginary line between hitting chump change and enough to at least be taken seriously.

One might expect a onetime journeyman like Mendoza, who averaged fewer than 32 hits for his nine major-league seasons, would be grateful, even if grudgingly, for this morsel of everlasting fame, which has already outlasted his career by 13 years. But no, Mario is both shamed and annoyed by the whole thing—and wouldn't mind hanging ESPN broadcaster Chris Berman upside down by a Mendoza Line.

"That guy is always bringing it up, I don't know why," Mendoza moans. "I

didn't mind it at first, but they keep rubbing it in and rubbing it in. I get sick and tired of hearing about the Mendoza Line."

Berman didn't invent the line, but he is responsible for embedding it in baseball's lexicon. The phrase was coined in 1979 by Seattle's Bruce Bochte and Tom Paciorek because manager Darrell Johnson wouldn't let Mendoza near the batter's box with men on base. No, Mario didn't invent hitting below .200, but he was darned good at it. Five times he hit under his own line.

Still, he has only one big regret: that he didn't get a trademark lawyer on the line the first time he heard about the Mendoza Line.

"I wish I could've made some money off it," Mendoza admits.

It may not be too late. See, Mario, you come out with a collection of fragrances or beachware or whatever, call it the you-know-what and get all that free advertising every time Chris Berman opens his mouth.

—Tom Singer

SPORT TALK

MEMORIES

TED WILLIAMS' HITTERS HALL OF FAME

On Feb. 9, Ted Williams, arguably the greatest hitter of all time, will present the first "Ted Williams Greatest Hitters Award" to the major-leaguers he thought had the best seasons in 1994. Those chosen were Tony Gwynn and Jeff Bagwell of the National League, and Frank Thomas and Ken Griffey Jr. of the American League.

As the Ted Williams Museum in Herndon, Fla., celebrates its first birthday, Williams looks to mark the occasion with his all-new Hitter's Hall of Fame, the biggest baseball celebrity showcase this side of Cooperstown. As part of the festivities, Williams will honor 20 of baseball's greatest sluggers, celebrating them with showcases consisting of equipment and photos marking the players' greatest moments. For memorabilia fans, priceless artifacts will dress the wing, including game-used bats, gloves and uniforms.

Williams' top 20 inductees are Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Rogers Hornsby, Joe DiMaggio, Ty Cobb, Stan Musial, Joe Jackson, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Hank Greenberg, Mickey Mantle, Tris Speaker, Al Simmons, Johnny Mize, Mel Ott, Harry Heilmann, Frank Robinson, Mike Schmidt and Ralph Kiner.

—Richard Watt, Mr. Memorabilia



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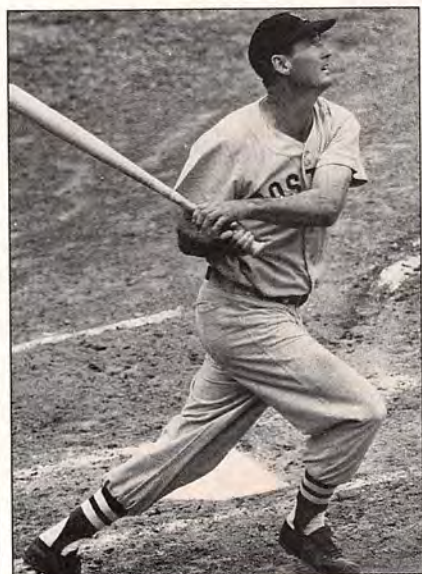
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SPORT ARCHIVE

DOMINIQUE WILKINS

"I WAS STUNNED WHEN MY AGENT TOLD ME THE CELTICS WANTED ME"

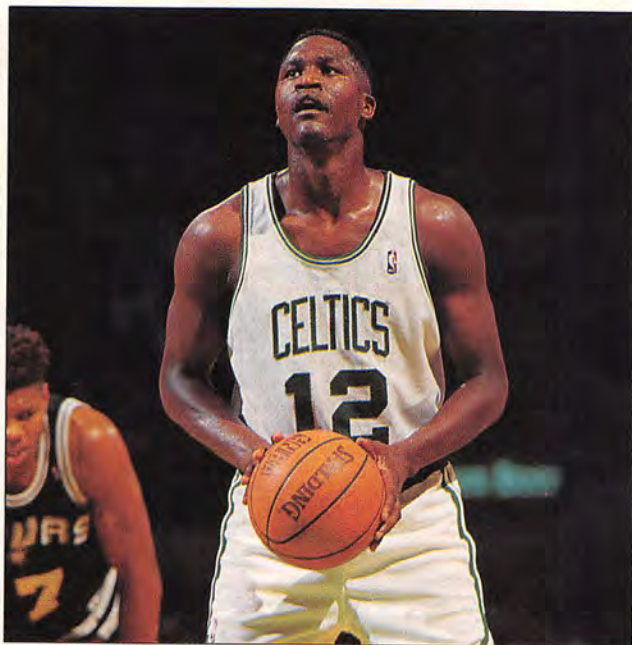
The airplane lifts off from Boston's Logan Airport and disappears into the clouds. M.L. Carr, the Boston Celtics' director of basketball operations, leans back in his seat and visualizes Dominique Wilkins in Celtics green and white. He envisions Wilkins driving past a defender, soaring toward the rim and slamming the ball through the net, prompting the packed house in Boston Garden to leap from their seats and applaud wildly, just as in the days when Carr was swinging a towel over his head and the Celtics were winning championships.

Carr is on his way to Chicago to meet with Wilkins and his agent, Steve Kauffman. It is July, and Wilkins is working out with Dream Team II in preparation for the World Championships, an event ultimately dominated by Wilkins, Shaquille O'Neal and the rest of Team USA.

As the airplane climbs toward the heavens, Carr reviews his sales pitch intended to lure Wilkins, a free agent, to Boston. Several weeks earlier, Carr and Celtics head coach Chris Ford had met to plot their strategy in rebuilding the NBA's most storied franchise. "We drew up a list of players, mainly free agents, who we felt we needed and could get," Ford says.

The first name they jotted down was Wilkins. Money is inconsequential in Carr's quest

STEVE LIPOFSKY



to land Dominique. He wants Dominique desperately, *needs* him to revitalize the team he has inherited, a team that won just 32 games last season, its worst mark in 16 years. The Celtics were accustomed to having 32 wins by the All-Star break.

The memories. The championships. The glory.

But there was no glory last season. Just painful defeats, one after another. Even the victories were uninspiring. The team, the situation, the future, looked hopeless.

"I was stunned when my agent told me the Celtics wanted me," Dominique says, sitting in his hotel room in San Antonio, where the Celtics are about to play the Spurs. "I had never thought about being a Celtic. Never."

He figured he'd wind up with the New York Knicks, who happen to be a high-scoring small forward away from an NBA championship. He figured he might even remain in Los Angeles—not with the Clippers, for whom he finished last season, but with the Lak-

ers, who were desperate for a marquee, slick-scoring ticket seller.

Even the Cleveland Cavaliers were a possibility, and Dominique liked that idea because his brother, Gerald, is a Cav. The Indiana Pacers expressed interest too.

"After hearing [what Carr had to tell me about the Celtics], the decision was easy," Wilkins says. "I wanted to be a Boston Celtic. Nothing else. I wanted to be part of the greatest organization in basketball. I was familiar with only two organizations, the Hawks and the Clippers, and they are on the other end of the spectrum compared with the Celtics. No comparison."

To complete the selling of the Celtics, Carr had Red Auerbach telephone Kauffman's hotel suite. "I pulled out all the stops," Carr says. Auerbach, the man who helped build Celtics dynasties in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, tells Dominique: "We need a person of your stature in our organization. We want a person of your character representing the Celtics." Auerbach tells 'Nique that many great players became Celtics near the end of their careers and went out with championship rings: Dennis Johnson, Paul Silas, Bill Walton, Charlie Scott. "Even I did," Carr says.

"I loved the idea of finishing my career as a Celtic," Wilkins says. "I was so honored by

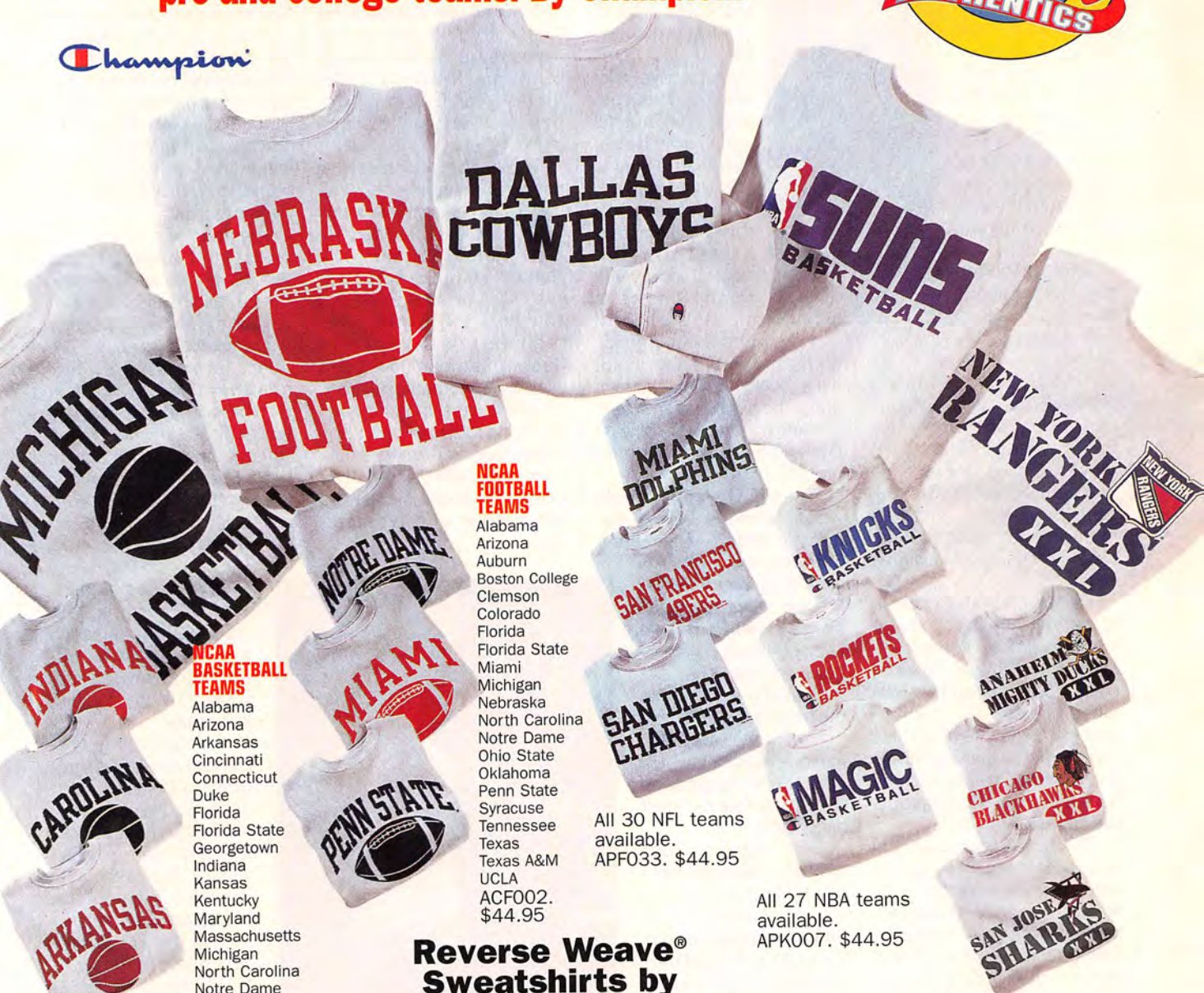
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ONE ON ONE

what M.L. and Red told me. I had never been treated that way. I never felt so wanted. Here I'm 34 years old and I was being wooed. It's funny, I played for the Hawks for 12 years and they never treated me with that kind of respect. Not even close."

The following day, Wilkins signs a three-year contract with an option for a fourth.

"I have never been able to explain it," he says. "Sure, the lack of respect has always bothered me. I've had great players—guys like Michael [Jordan], Magic [Johnson], Larry [Bird]—tell me that it's a shame I haven't been appreciated or respected on a higher level."

Purists have always denigrated Wilkins' sizzling, show-stopping game. He's one-dimensional, they say. Doesn't pass enough. Doesn't play defense. Never won a championship or brought out the best in teammates the way Magic and Bird did. Yet did Wilkins have teammates comparable to Bird's and Magic's?

Wilkins has been one of the most electrifying players of his era—of any era, for that matter—yet he was left off the original Dream Team, an exclusion that left him deeply hurt. And how many legends get traded in the manner Wilkins was last season? He had been a Hawk since 1982, following a wonderful career at the University of Georgia.

Yet last season, during one of the Hawks' best seasons in years, a season in which they possibly could have played for a championship, a season in which Dominique was thriving, the Hawks shook up the basketball world by trading him to the Clippers for Danny Manning. Respect? Appreciation? He didn't ask to be traded. They just did it. Traded the

"It's not serious in Atlanta and L.A. They're not serious about winning."

hometown legend, the hometown hero.

"I'm still bitter about it," Dominique says. "Not so much about being traded, but the way it was done. There's no way to justify the trade and the way the Hawks handled it. Had they come to me and said: 'Nique, we're gonna make a move. We have a chance to get so-

and-so,' I would have said, 'Fine, do it.' I cared that much about the organization. Yeah, it would have hurt, but at least it would have been handled properly."

The night before the trade was announced, Wilkins and his wife, Nicole, were eating dinner at a popular Atlanta restaurant, The Fish Market. Coincidentally, so was Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens. The parties said hello. That was it. "Lenny knew all about the trade but didn't have the guts to tell me," Dominique says. "They're a disgraceful organization to do what they did. Just disgraceful."

Yet maybe, just maybe, it was all supposed to happen this way. Maybe Dominique Wilkins was supposed to leave Atlanta and ultimately land in Boston, where he is fully appreciated and respected. Celtics fans have always embraced their stars. Russell. Cousy. Heinsohn. K.C. Havlicek. Cowens. Jo Jo. Archibald. Bird. DJ. McHale. Parish. Celtics fans have always appreciated the NBA's greatest stars, regardless of where they play, and now one of them is one of their own.

"When I arrived in Boston, we went over to a restaurant [Via Vento] and they had a huge banner that said, 'Boston

Welcomes Dominique.' You don't know how that made me feel. Nothing like that had ever happened to me. At this stage of my career, especially after the last year, for that to happen, well, it just means so much."

He needs the Celtics at this point of his career as much as the Celtics need him. He wants to be loved, to be coddled. He is so vital to this team. The Celtics' leading scorer last year, Dee Brown, averaged 15.5 points. Only two other teams—the Lakers and Bucks—had leading scorers with lower averages. But now, with Dominique being constantly doubled-teamed, scoring opportunities have increased for Brown and the Celts' No. 2 scorer last season, Dino Radja, who averaged 15.1.

Charles River. My wife and I wake up and there's geese on our lawn. Just the other day, we saw deer from our window. There's little boats that pass by on the Charles in our backyard. It's sweet. I always look forward to going home. I've pinched myself a few times, wondering, 'Is this really happening to me?'"

He has been continually amazed by his new organization, the people who run it and the professionalism that surrounds the team. "It's such a unique place," he says. "The thing that pops out at you is how they take care of their own here. That's something you don't see in other organizations, especially where I've been. Everywhere you look [in the organization], there's former Celtic players. Chris [Ford] is the head coach. M.L. runs

the organization. Larry [Bird] is a special assistant. DJ's an assistant [coach]. Tom Heinsohn and Bob Cousy are announcers. Now, tell me, what other organization is like that?"

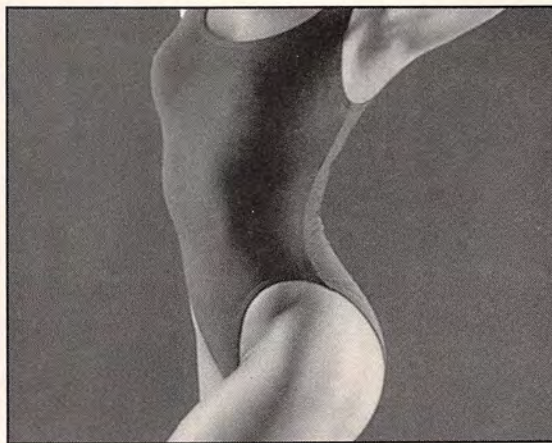
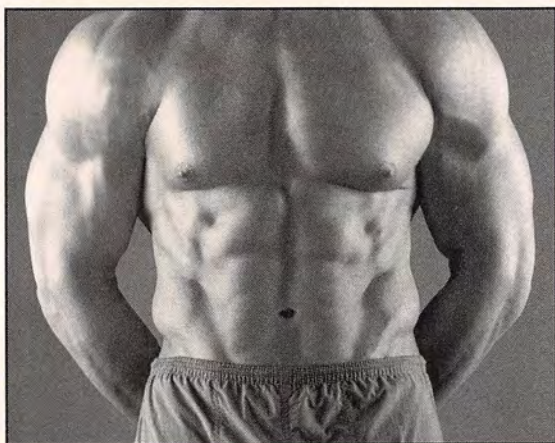
"It's amazing, I received more respect from the Celtics my first month than I did my whole career in Atlanta and the few months I was in L.A. Basketball is serious business here. It's not serious in Atlanta and L.A. They're not serious about winning. They're not committed to winning, especially in L.A. The place is a joke. [Playing for the Clippers is] like playing in Disneyland. It's a Mickey Mouse organization."

"What's great now is I'm finally able to play in front of real basketball fans," he says, delivering one final slam to Atlanta, the Hawks, L.A. and the Clippers. "Boston has the most knowledgeable basketball fans in the world. Boston is basketball and basketball is Boston. There just isn't a better place to play." ★



STEVE LIPOFSKY

And Dominique couldn't be happier. He says he's never been treated better by an employer, and he's living in an exquisite home on four acres in the picturesque New England town of Dover. "It's paradise," he says. "I can walk into my backyard and go fishing on the



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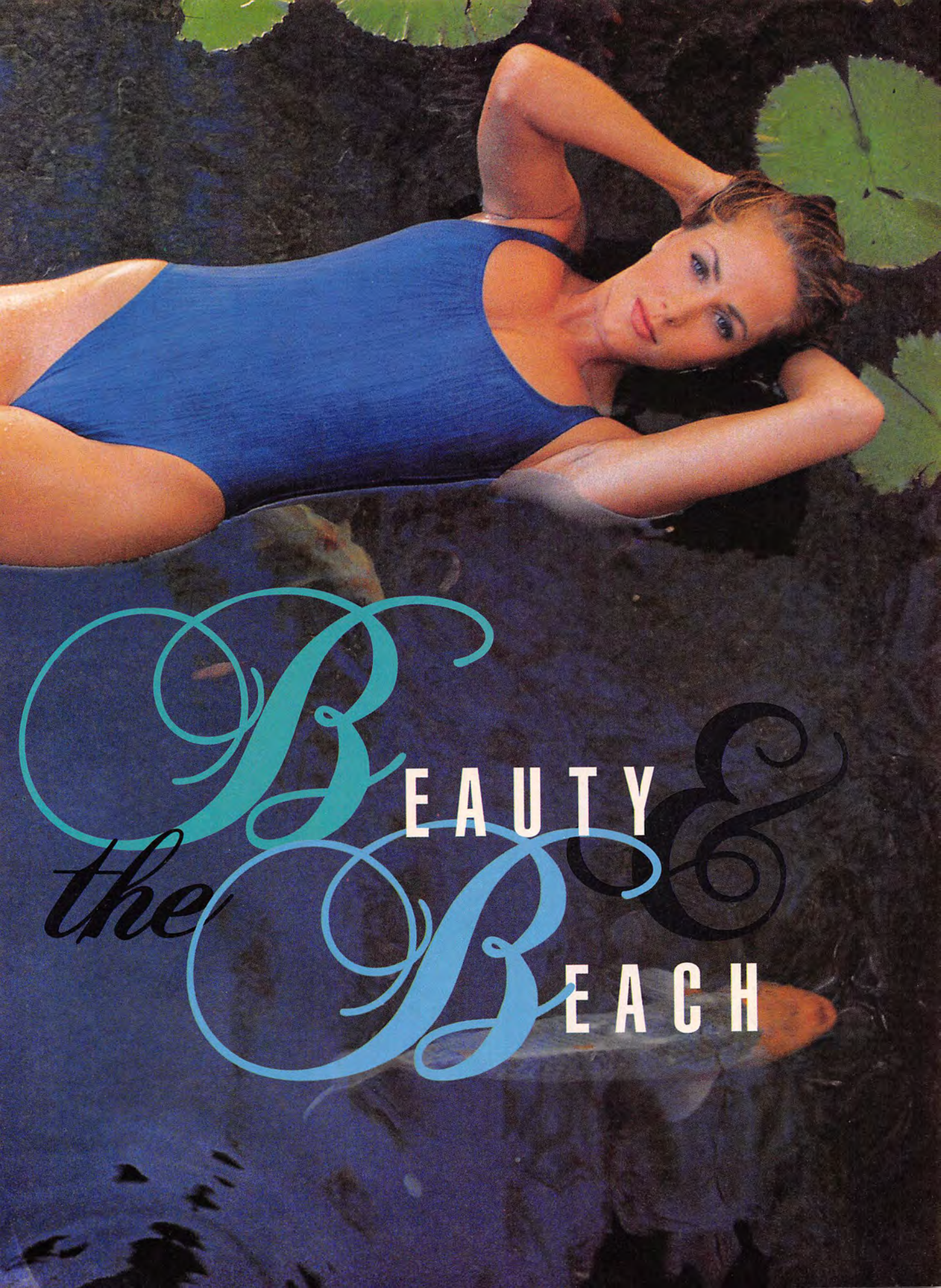


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A photograph of a person's legs floating in a dark blue pond. Several koi fish of various colors (white, orange, red, and blue) are swimming around the legs. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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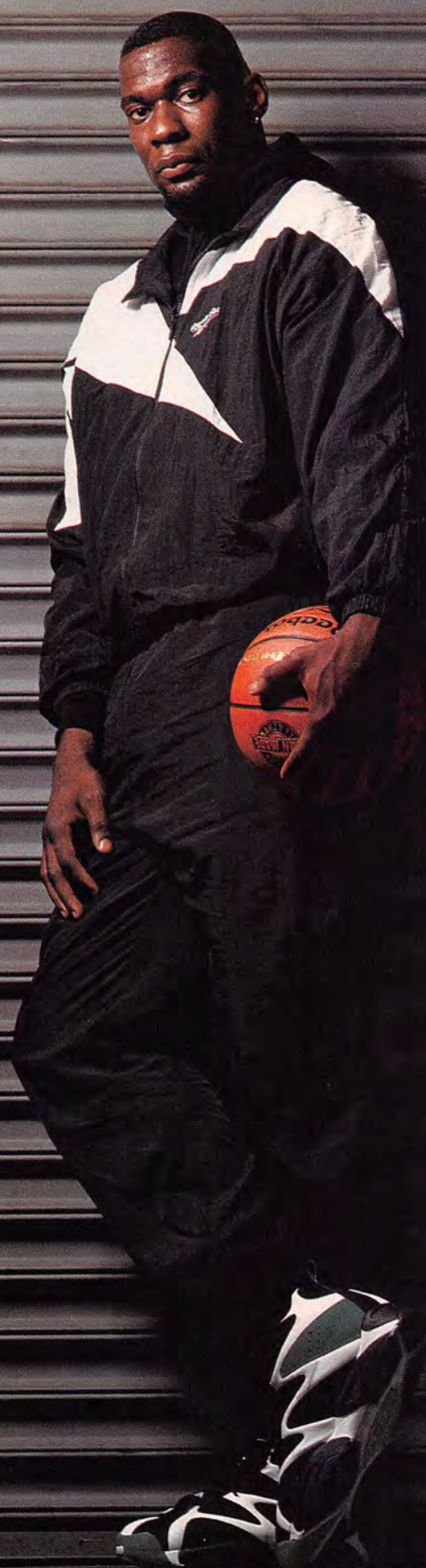
BEAUTY & the BEACH



Danielle has
the world in
the palm of
her hand wearing a
suit by Twins.



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A full-page photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, posing in a tropical-themed swimsuit. She is leaning back with her arms raised behind her head, looking upwards. The swimsuit is a one-piece with a vibrant, colorful pattern featuring a sun, flowers, and tropical motifs. The background is a blurred blue body of water.

Rosie strikes a
pose wearing
a suit by
Ritchie.



*S*plashin'
around, Shana
kicks up plenty
of attention in a suit by
Ritchie.



Beached in a suit from
Ritchie, Brooke rests in
the sand for all to see.



A full-page photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a bright pink one-piece swimsuit and clear swim goggles around her neck. She is standing in the ocean surf, with her arms raised behind her head. Water is splashing around her legs. The background is a blurred view of the ocean with white-capped waves.

Dolores makes a splash wearing a suit by Jag.



*P*lesha's in a class
of her own wearing
a suit by Twins.



hana lets the good
times roll by riding a
Kawasaki JET SKI®
Watercraft and wearing a
suit by Barefoot Miss.





Reflecting in a
classy suit by
Twins, Danielle
changes the tide.







Rosie glistens in
the pool at Kona
Cave wearing a
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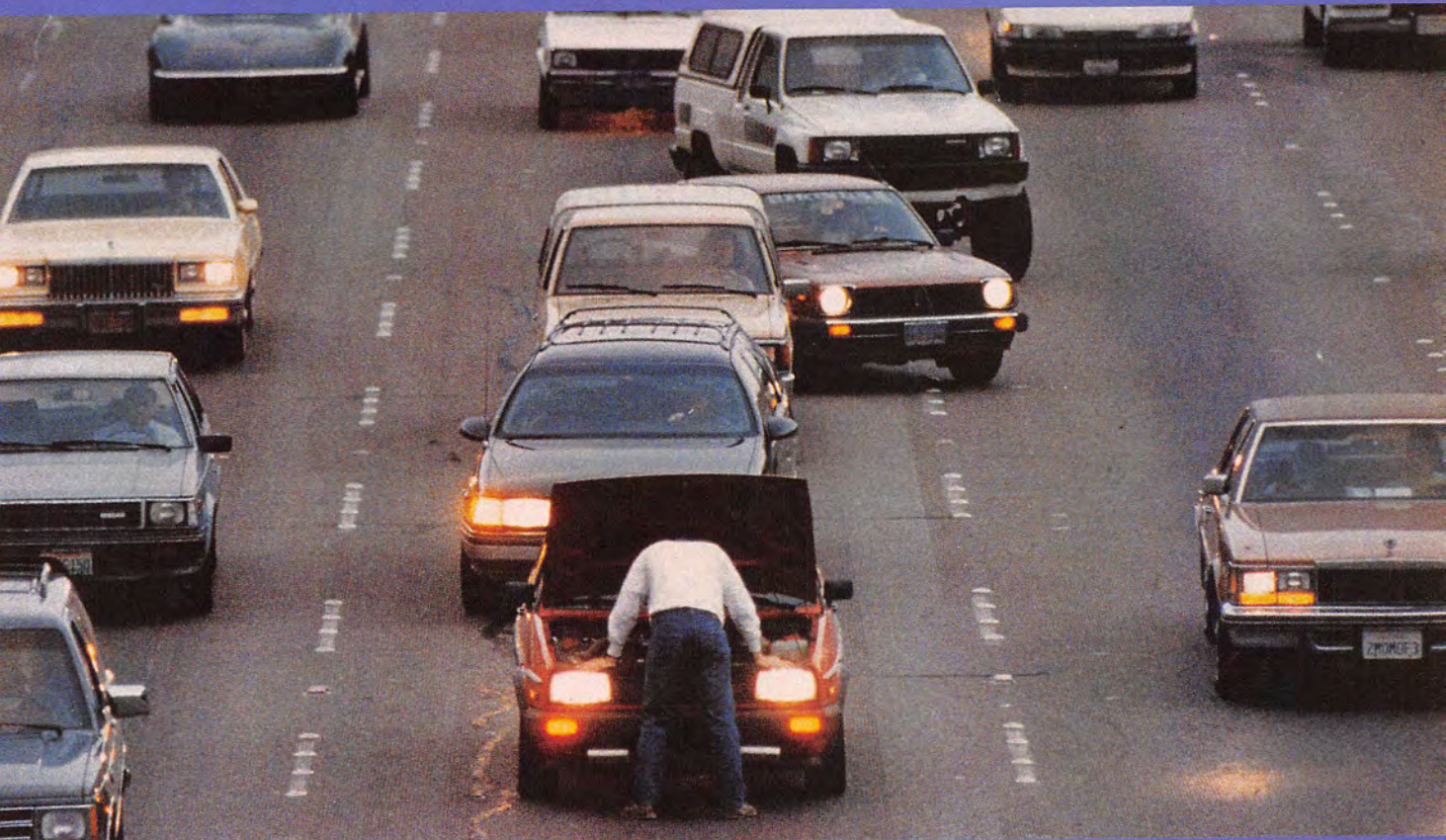


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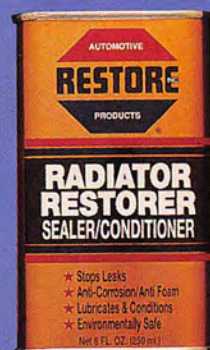
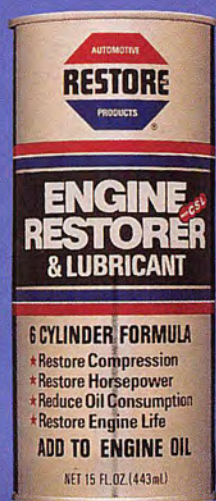


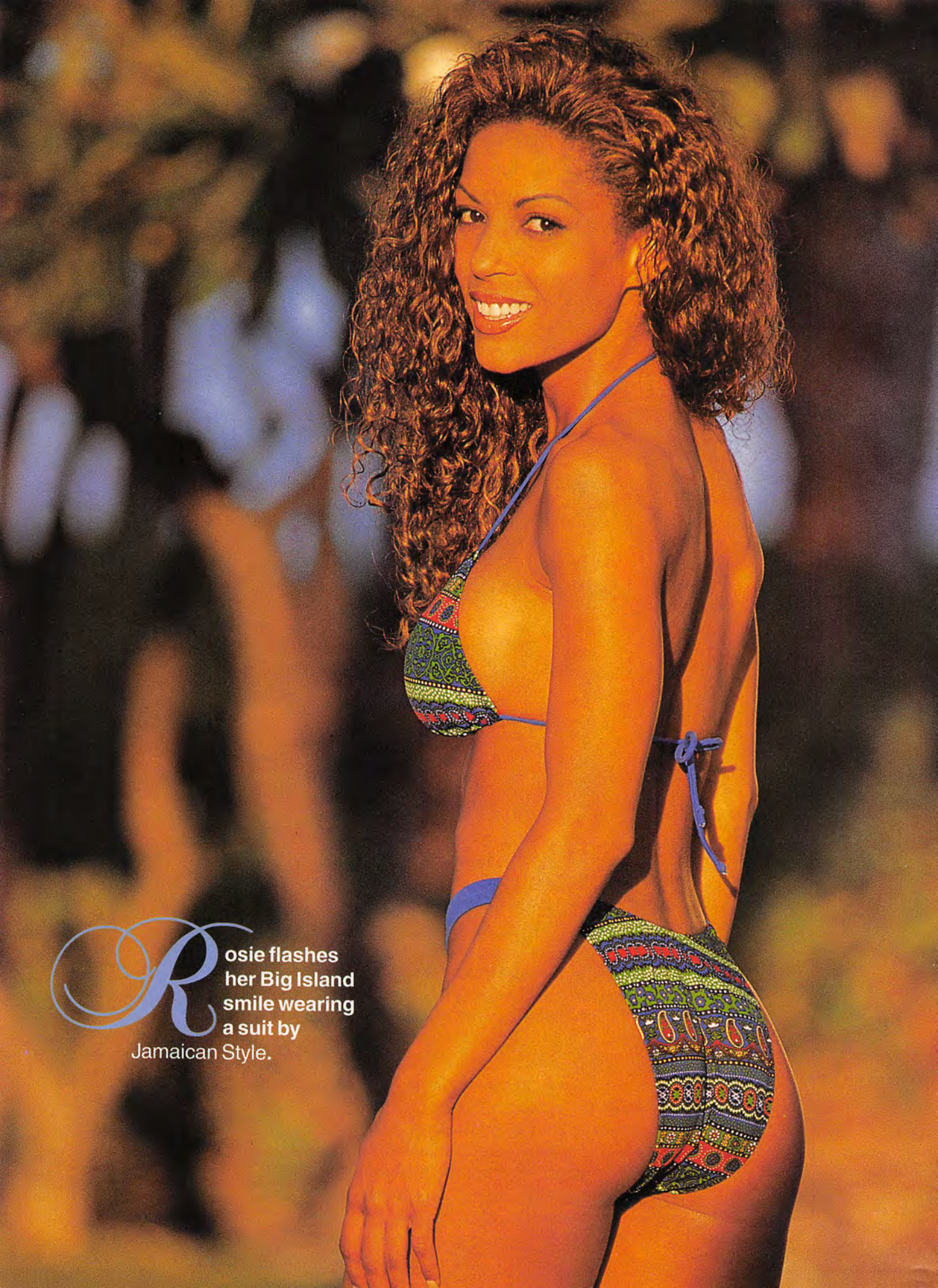
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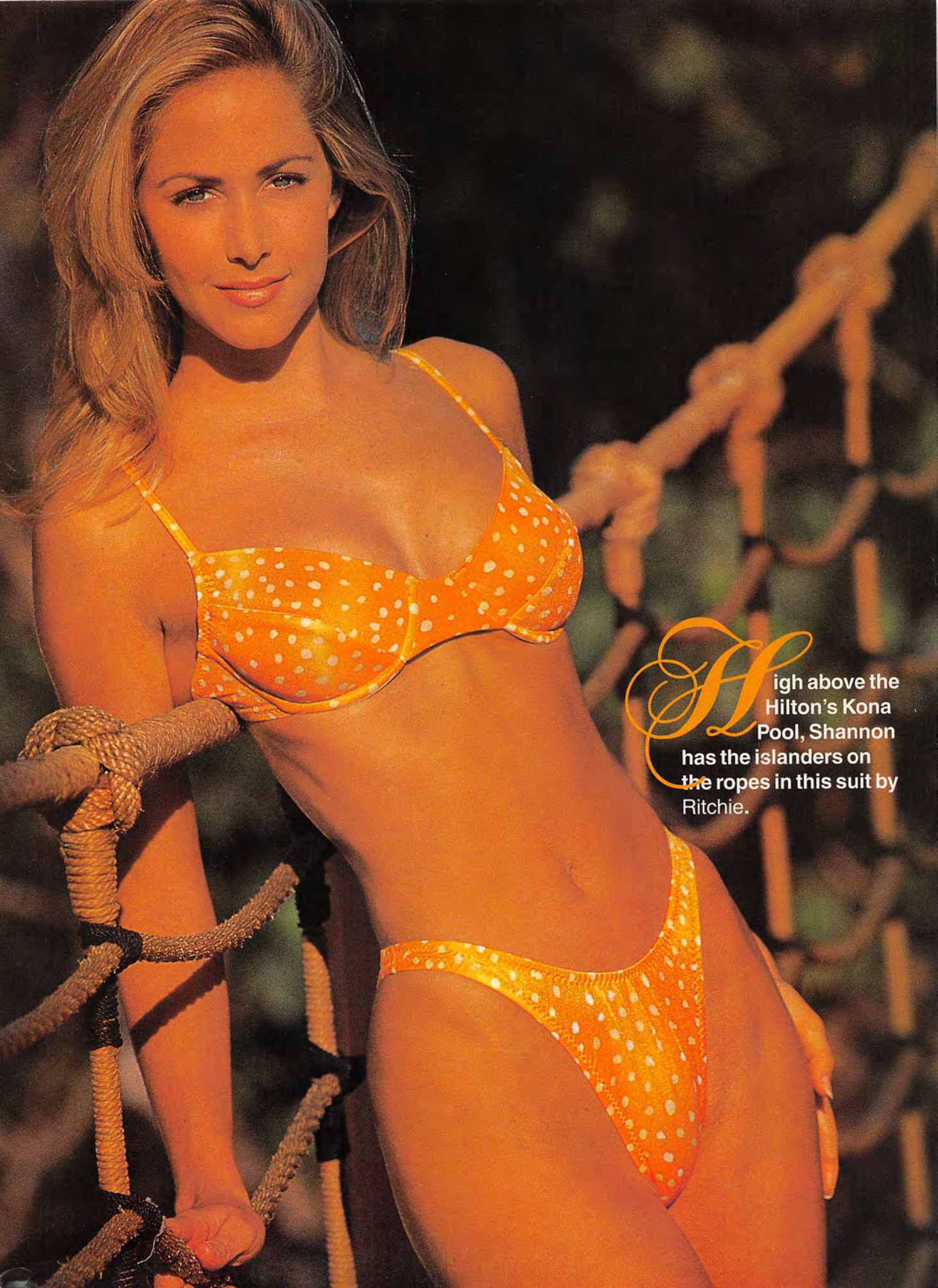


Rosie flashes
her Big Island
smile wearing
a suit by
Jamaican Style.

A full-page photograph of a woman with long, dark, wet hair sitting on a dark, pebbly beach. She is wearing a light-colored, possibly yellow or gold, string bikini. She is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing left in profile. Her eyes are closed, and she has a serene expression. The background shows the ocean with gentle waves washing onto the shore. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting the time is either sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and romantic.

B

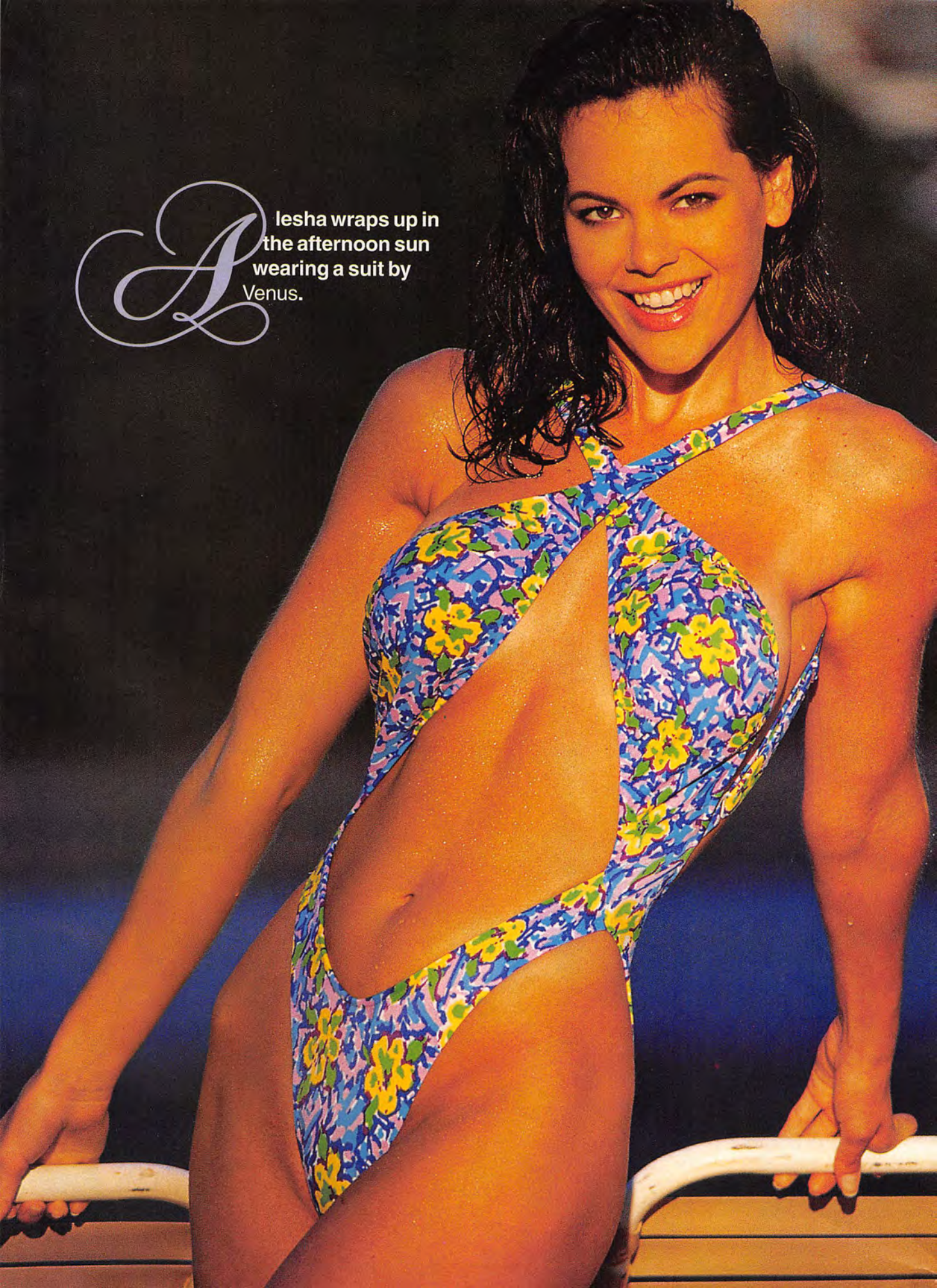
rooke stops
the Pacific
cold in a suit
by Twins.



*S*igh above the
Hilton's Kona
Pool, Shannon
has the islanders on
the ropes in this suit by
Ritchie.

A

lesha wraps up in
the afternoon sun
wearing a suit by
Venus.



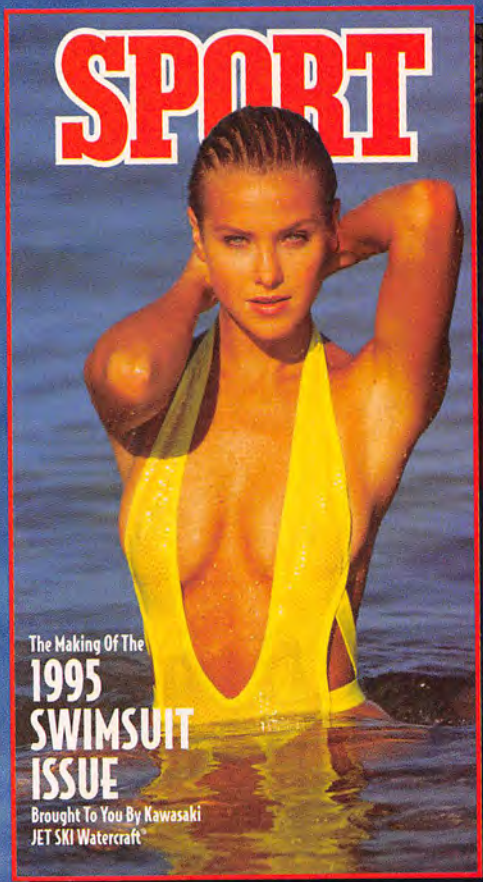
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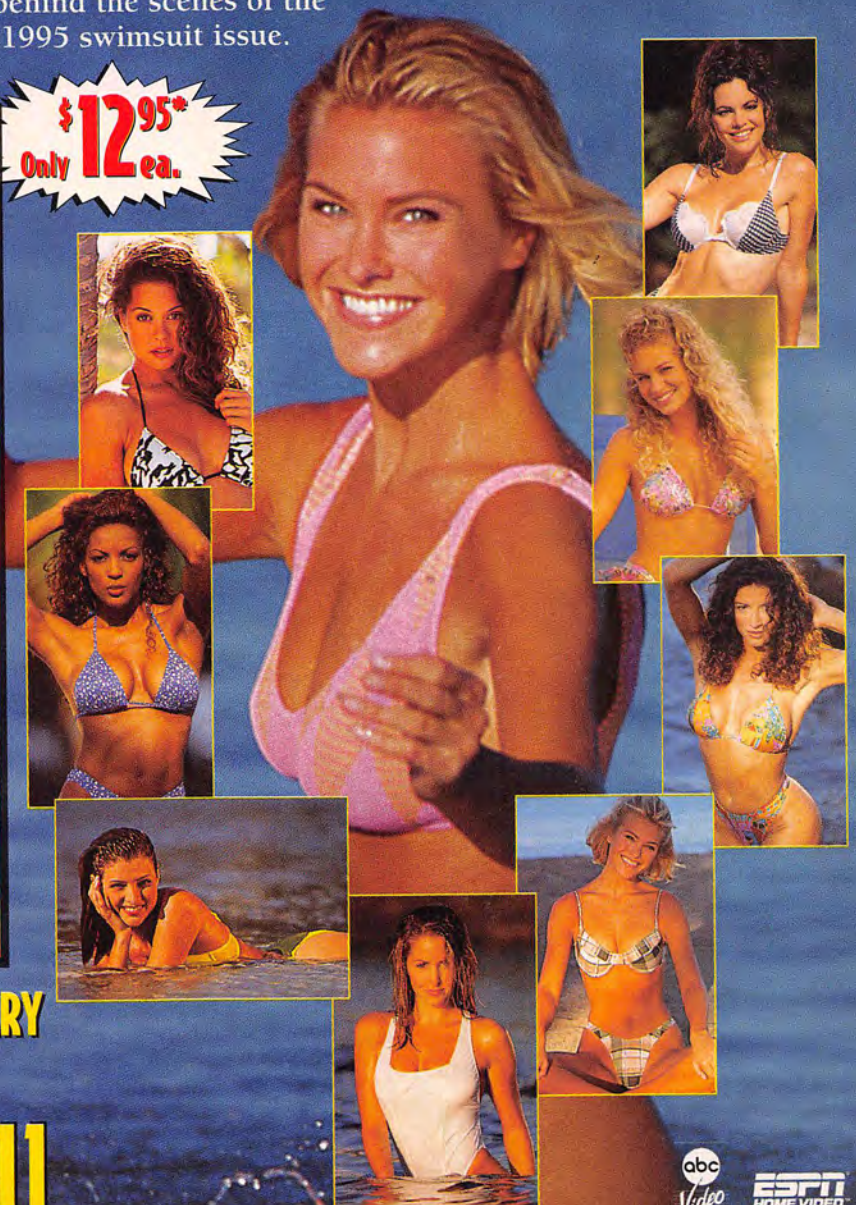
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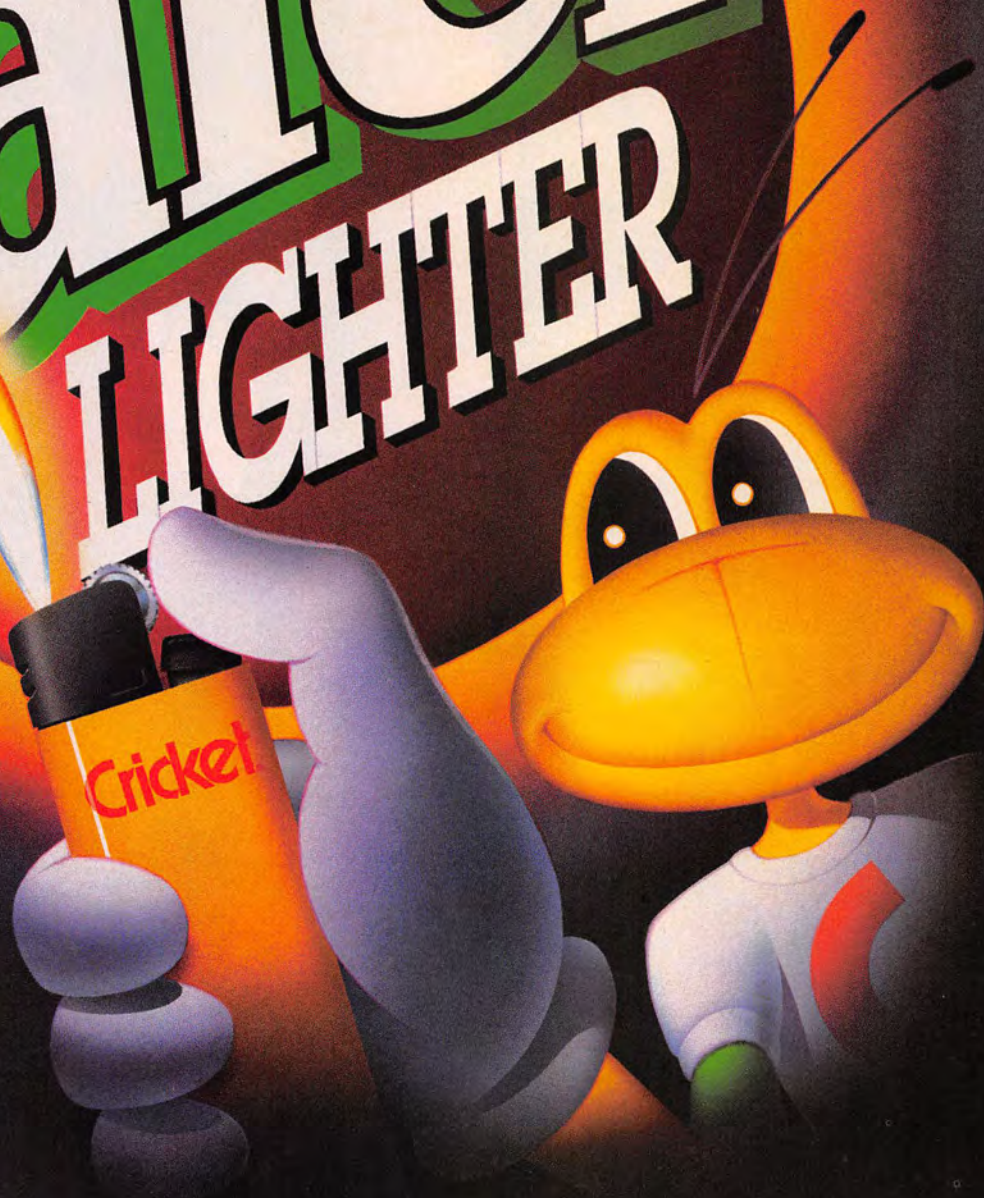
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A full-page photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling and looking over her shoulder. She is wearing a white, string-style bikini. Her skin is glistening with water droplets. The background is dark and out of focus. In the lower-left corner, there is a pink decorative swirl followed by the text 'hannon provides perfect exposure in a suit by Venus.'

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2. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately via first-class mail. Mail all entries to: SPORT's 1995 Kawasaki JET SKI® Watercraft Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 51541, Boulder, CO 80322-1541. Where this sweepstakes is promoted at a show or other event, you may also enter directly at that location.

3. This sweepstakes may be presented in conjunction with various offers sponsored by Petersen Publishing Company.

4. This sweepstakes begins January 24, 1995. To be eligible, all entries must be received by June 30, 1995. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, illegible, or postage-due mail, or for printing or other errors.

5. Two grand-prize winners will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about July 28, 1995, from among all eligible entries received. The decisions of the judges are final. Odds of winning are determined by the total number of eligible entries received. Limit one prize per family or household. Entries become the property of Petersen Publishing Company and will not be returned. Each entrant consents to the transfer of all information contained on his/her entry form(s) to other companies.

6. Potential winners will be notified by mail. Potential winners must follow the directions contained in any required Affidavit of Eligibility / Release of Liability / Prize Acceptance Form / skill-testing notification, or any correspondence attached therewith and return all forms, correctly filled out, so that the forms are received within 21 days of the date on the correspondence. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and an alternate may be selected. The potential winners are responsible to ensure that any of the previously mentioned forms are actually received at the designated address within 21 days.

7. In order to be awarded a prize, residents of Canada will be required to correctly answer a time-limited arithmetic skill-testing question. In the event the skill-testing question is not correctly answered within the time limit, an alternate winner will be selected.

8. The grand prize consists of a Kawasaki JET SKI® 750 ZXi watercraft (retail value: \$6,599.00 each). There are two grand prizes to be won (one JET SKI® per winner, two winners in all) with a total combined value of \$13,198.00. No substitution of these prizes, except by sweepstakes sponsor (due to prize unavailability), in which case a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded. Value of each prize is stated in U.S. currency. Taxes and duties are the sole responsibility of each winner.

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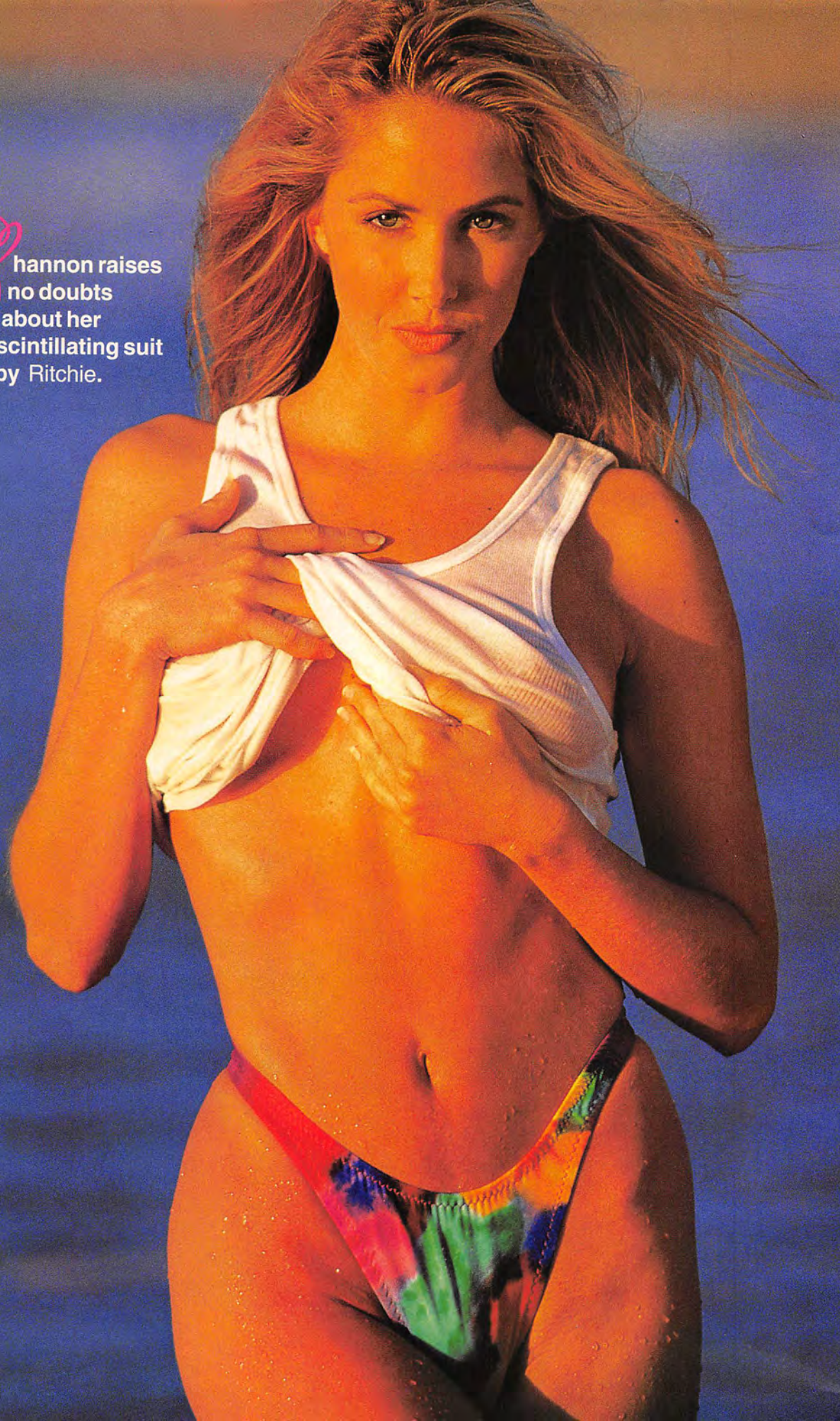
Ride responsibly. Petersen Publishing and Kawasaki believe that safety begins with your watercraft and continues with you, the rider. Never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Respect the rights of shoreline residents and other marine recreationalists. Riding is more fun on a well-maintained machine... follow the instructions in your owner's manual. Remember, riding safe is smart. JET SKI® watercraft are "Class A" inboard boats and their use is subject to all applicable state and local boating laws. Always wear a USCG-approved personal flotation device, eye wear and other appropriate safety apparel.

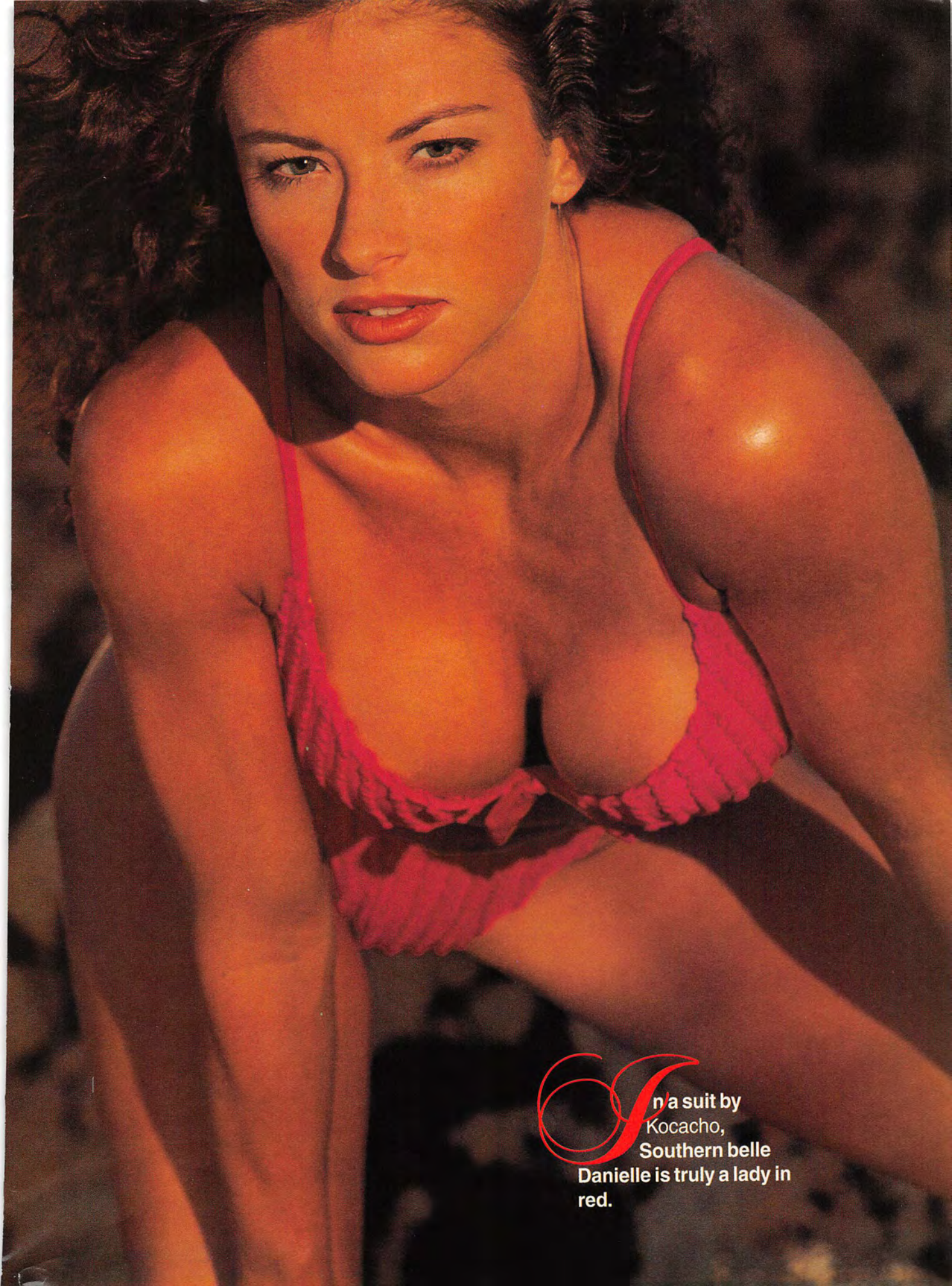




Stretched out in a
suit by Savvee,
Rosie has the
competition
throwing in the towel.

Shannon raises
no doubts
about her
scintillating suit
by Ritchie.



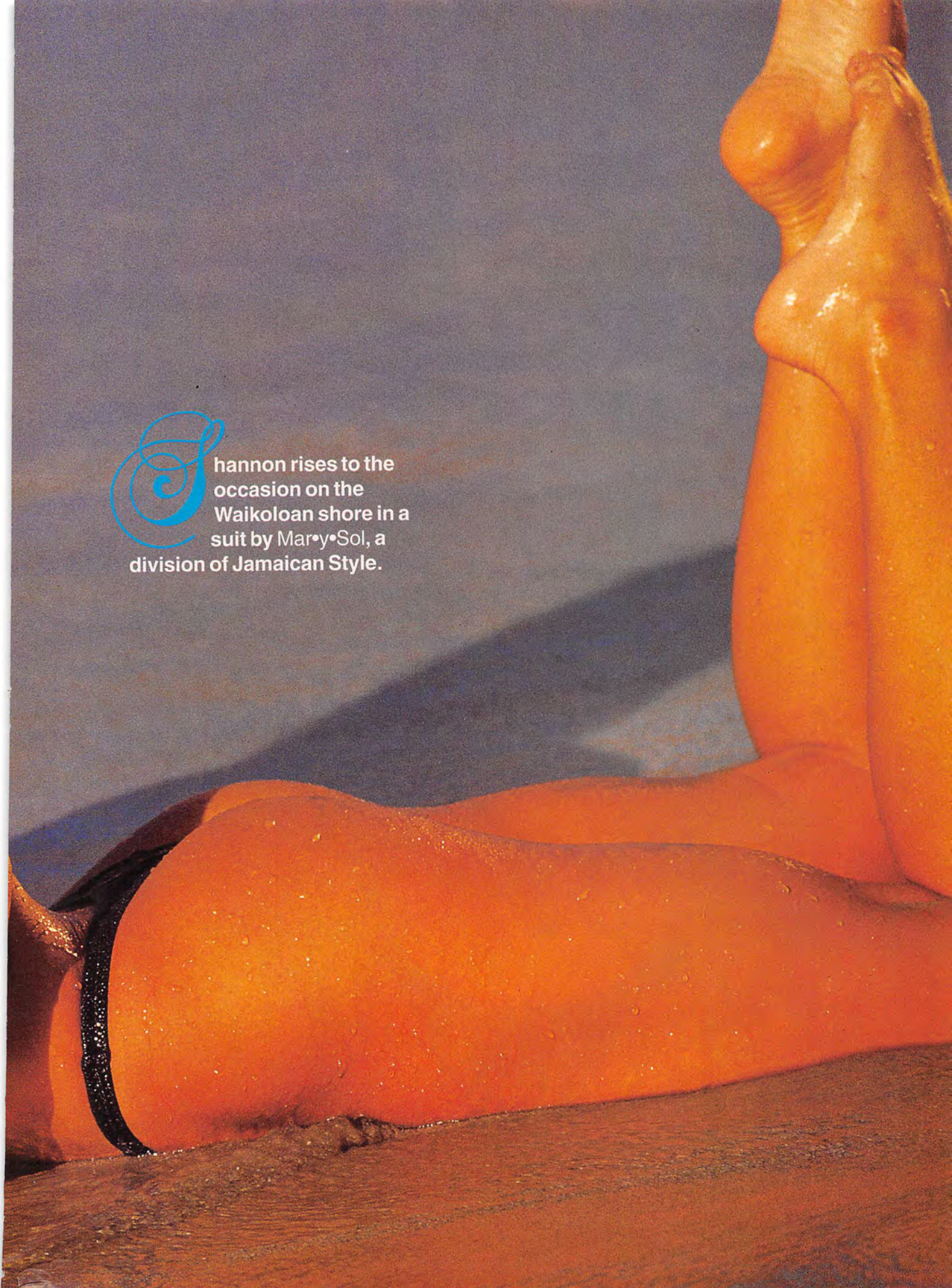


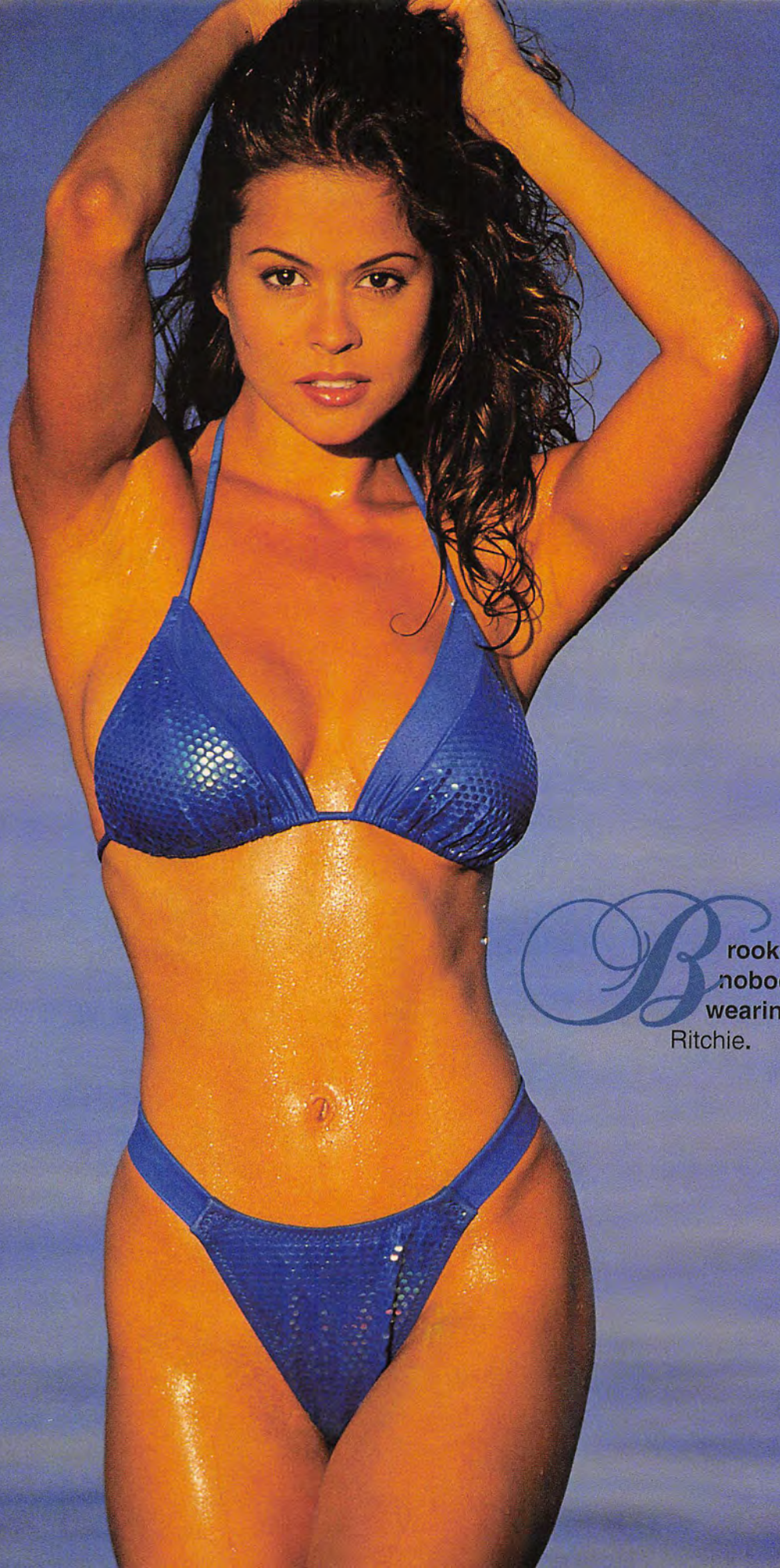
 n'a suit by
Kocacho,
Southern belle
Danielle is truly a lady in
red.





hannon rises to the
occasion on the
Waikoloan shore in a
suit by Mar•y•Sol, a
division of Jamaican Style.






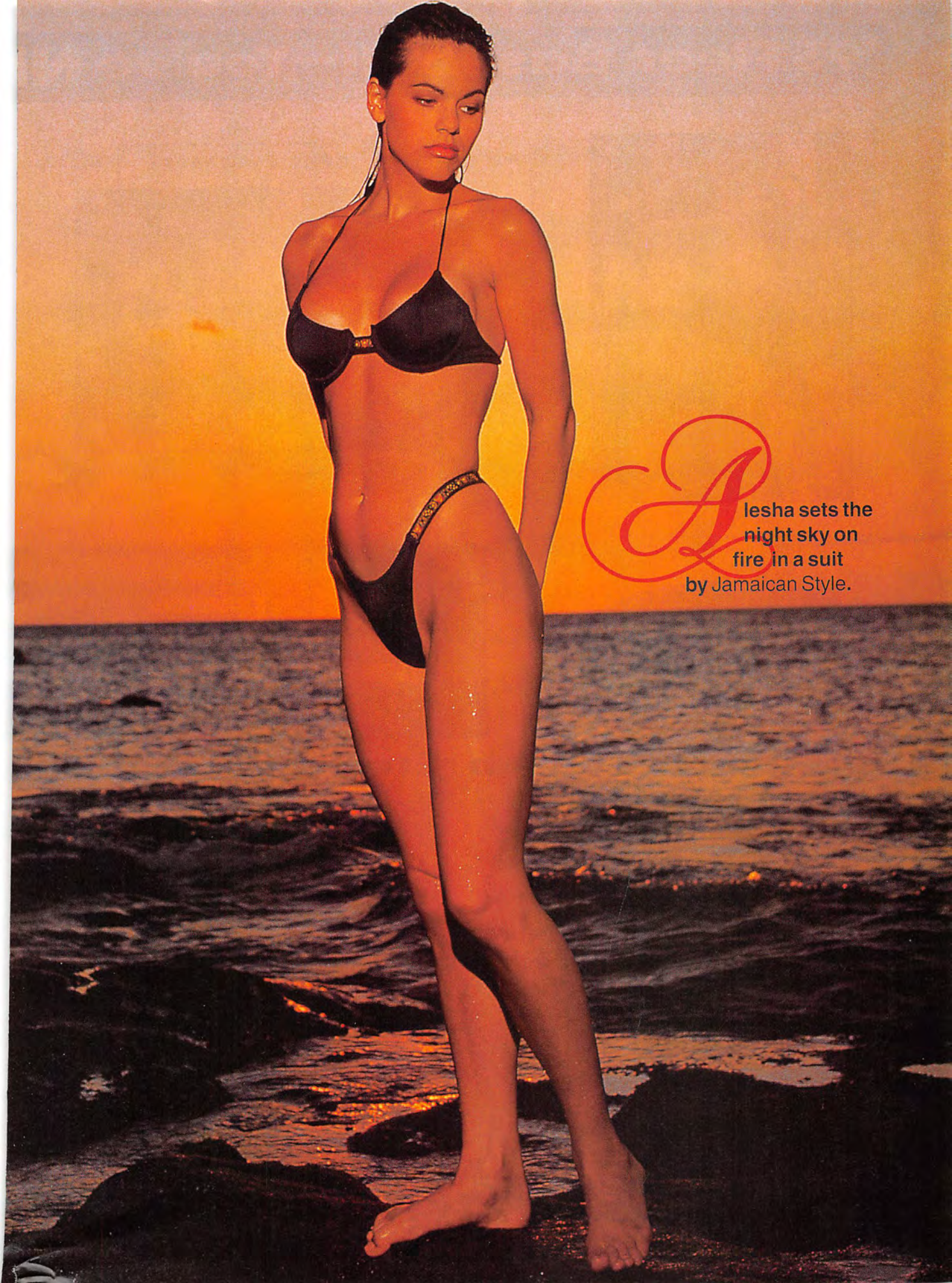
*B*rooke leaves
nobody blue
wearing a suit by
Ritchie.

A full-page photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, posing on a beach. She is wearing a two-piece bikini with a vibrant, multi-colored geometric and abstract pattern. Her arms are raised, and her head is tilted back, eyes closed, in a relaxed pose. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean with gentle waves. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise setting.

Danielle is in
paradise with a
suit by Darling Rio.



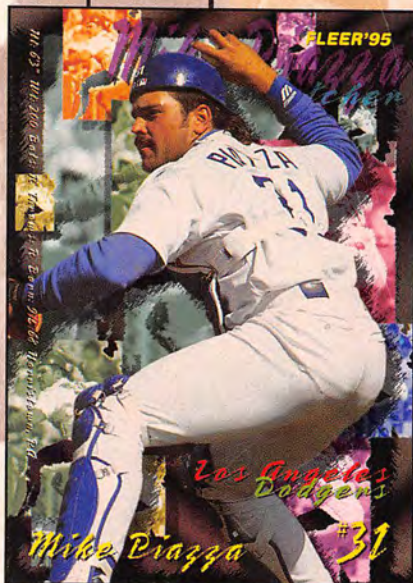
Enhancing the
scenery at
Hilton's Waikoloa
Village, Christine
lounges in a suit by
Darling Rio.



lesha sets the
night sky on
fire in a suit
by Jamaican Style.

'95 Fleer® Baseball—You've Never Seen Before

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST



BASIC CARD BACK

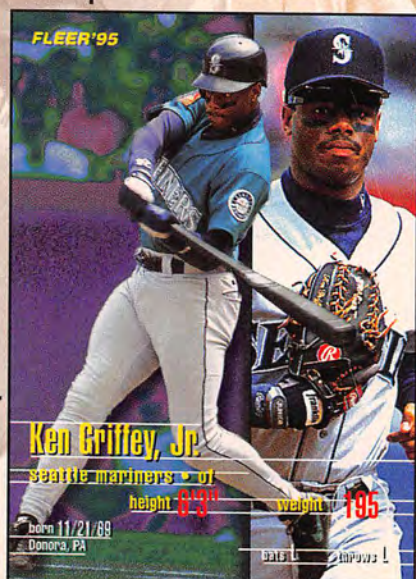
Year	Club	PCT	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	SO
1989	SUNTER	.289	25	90	17	28	5	0	1	12	1	11	14
1989	CLF RAYS	.484	17	57	14	23	5	4	1	16	4	6	6
1990	GRAN	.274	77	292	40	80	16	1	7	47	10	32	53
1990	SUNTER	.359	63	231	41	85	15	1	10	38	13	31	38
1991	GREENV	.291	126	415	64	122	22	3	14	67	14	75	60
1992	RICHMOND	.251	123	418	63	105	22	2	17	59	3	41	72
1992	BRANER	.000	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
1993	RICHMOND	.274	88	343	59	94	14	2	22	74	4	47	69
1993	BRANER	.353	22	17	3	6	1	0	2	5	3	4	
1994	BRANER	.278	92	245	42	68	13	3	17	47	1	29	48
ML Totals		.263	127	278	45	74	14	3	19	53	1	29	57

FLEER
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DES
Design⁶

An Electrifying Design

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST



AMERICAN LEAGUE CENTRAL

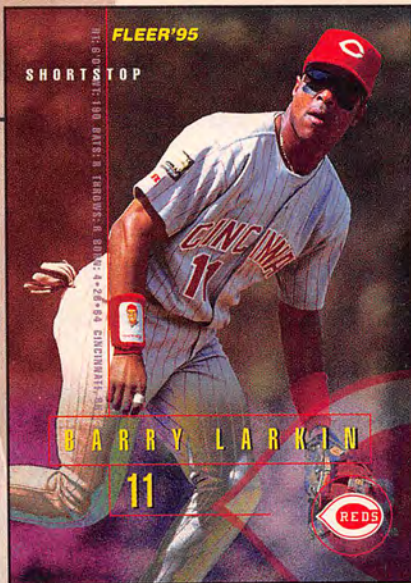


600 Card Set 6 Dazzling Full Bleed Designs.....

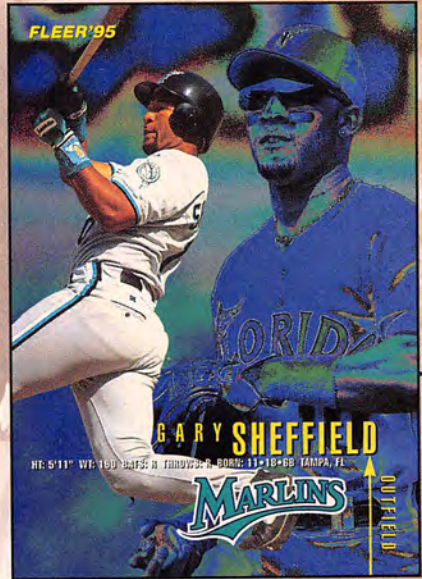
FLEER CORP., PRINTED IN U.S.A.

VER Seen Cards Like These!

NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL



NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST



gn For Each Division!

Year	CLUB	PCT	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	SO
1985	TWINS	285	151	631	80	199	29	13	4	74	21	41	87
1986	TWINS	320	161	600	119	223	37	6	31	96	20	34	89
1987	TWINS	332	157	624	144	287	32	5	28	99	12	32	91
1988	TWINS	358	159	657	189	324	42	5	24	121	6	23	83
1989	TWINS	339	159	635	16	215	45	4	9	85	11	41	59
1990	TWINS	296	146	551	33	164	40	3	12	80	5	57	73
1991	TWINS	318	162	611	92	195	29	6	15	89	11	31	78
1992	TWINS	329	160	630	104	218	38	4	19	110	17	44	81
1993	TWINS	296	156	622	89	184	39	3	22	89	8	47	83
1994	TWINS	317	160	630	79	130	32	3	29	112	8	25	51
ML Totals		318	1646	6708	980	2135	375	57	184	889	151	314	779

BASIC CARD BACK

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST



Gold Foil Stamped.....UV Coated.....Detailed Stats



'95 Fleer Baseball—9 A

"Fleer Award Winners"—6 scarce cards with Fleer's choices of baseball's most outstanding players. Embossed gold foil design.

Odds not greater than 1:24 packs.



First we totally redesigned the basic cards. Then we redefined insert cards with 9 amazing new insert sets. Each one's loaded with action, excitement and real collectibility. In fact, a couple of our insert series feature cards with 2 collectible players—one on each side. Plus, there's one limited edition card in every pack for added collecting excitement. That's '95 Fleer Baseball—with 9 really fine prime time inserts.

FLEER "HOT PACKS!"

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1:150 packs.



"Fleer Rookie Set Exchange Card"—Mail it in for 9 special '95 season rookie cards. Very scarce.

1:6 packs.



"Major League Prospects"—10 of today's most promising young players.

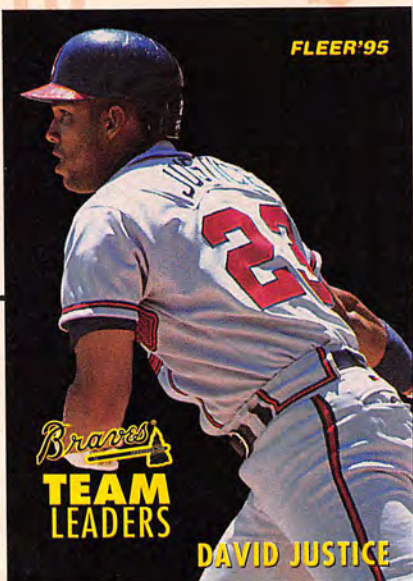
1:9 packs.



"Pro-Visions™ Original Art Cards"—6 new interlocking cards form one giant masterpiece.

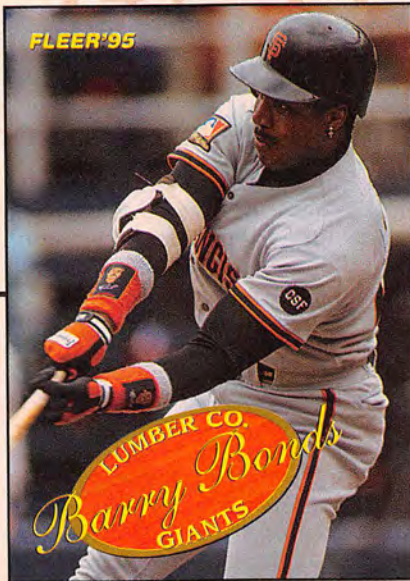
Prime Time insert Sets!

1:24 packs.



"Team Leaders"—28 cards with each team's leading pitcher & hitter—one on each side. 12-card hobby packs only.

1:24 packs.



"Lumber Company"—10 top major league longball hitters. 12-card retail packs only.

1:16 packs.



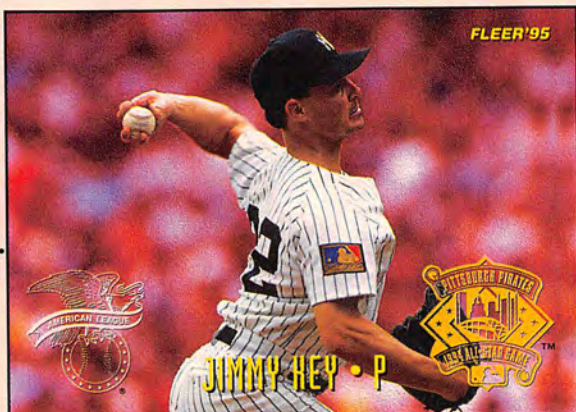
"Rookie Sensations"—20 top rookies from the 1994 season. 18-card packs only.



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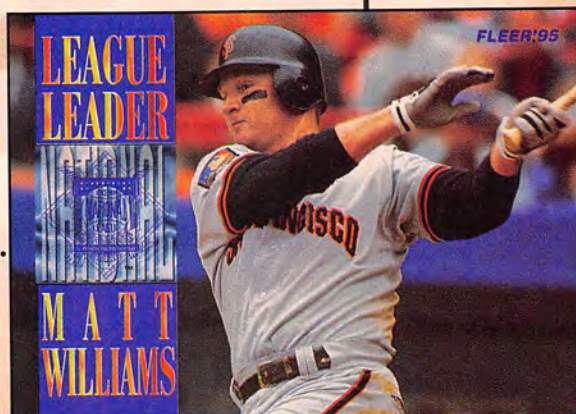
Insert Sets, One Card Per Pack!

1:3 packs.



"1994 All-Stars"—25 cards with NL Stars on one side, AL Stars on the other—by position.

1:12 packs.



"League Leaders"—The 10 statistical leaders from both leagues.



EXCLUSIVE MAIL-IN OFFER! The "All-Fleer 9" features Fleer's choices for the best players at each position for 10 wrappers plus \$2.95. See pack for details. Players include: Ken Griffey, Jr., Barry Bonds, Tony Gwynn, Frank Thomas, Roberto Alomar, Cal Ripken, Jr., Matt Williams, Mike Piazza and Greg Maddux.



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TIM O'DELL

THE JORDAN

While Latrell Sprewell was earning his rep as a defensive stopper at Three Rivers Community College in Missouri in 1988, Michael Jordan already had won the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year award.

At the same time Anfernee "Pen-

ny" Hardaway was becoming the most highly recruited high school player in Tennessee in 1990, Millionaire Mike was the most highly sought-after athlete/endorser in the land.

And just as Grant Hill was winning the second of back-to-back NCAA titles at Duke University in 1992, Air Jordan was en route to capturing his third consecutive NBA championship with the Chicago Bulls.

Mentioning these young players in the same breath with Jordan was once unheard of. But the whispers have begun that the next Jordan may have arrived.

Don Nelson, Jack McCloskey, Magic Johnson, Nolan Richardson, Del Harris and numerous others have dared to mention these kids from the MTV generation in the same sentence with Jordan, both privately and publicly.

The quote usually begins something like this: "I don't want to place a burden on [Spree/Penny/Grant], but this kid just may be the next Michael Jordan. He's got the same quickness, the athletic ability, the hunger to play defense, the desire to learn, the mental capacity to handle it all, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah."

Sprewell, Hardaway and Hill have

Webber are the big, bald men of the future. But when you're talking guards and small forwards, The Jordan Heirs already are among the best in the NBA today.

And by the turn of the century, after Hakeem Olajuwon, David Robinson and Patrick Ewing have retired, they'll not only be dominating their position counterparts but the entire league.

Yes, there are other 2's and 3's taking the league by storm—Jamal Mashburn, Jim Jackson, Clarence Weatherspoon, J.R. Rider—but they haven't quite matched The Jordan Heirs when it comes to packaging all facets of the game: scoring, passing, ball handling, defense and rebounding.

The Jordan Heirs are just so good, so young. Spree, 24, earned first-team All-NBA honors in only his second year with the Golden State Warriors. Penny, 22, was called "the second-best all-around player in the game next to Scottie Pippen" by Jordan himself after Hardaway's rookie year in Orlando. Hill, 22, has quickly captivated the attention of Madison Avenue, where the Detroit Pistons forward has landed endorsement deals with Fila, Schick and General

earned their right to be called The Jordan Heirs (not to be confused with The Jordanares, the backup group to both Michael Jordan and Elvis Presley). These young, dazzling 6-6 (give or take a couple inches) NBA superstars take a backseat to no one. In fact, they appear ready to take over where Jordan left off.

Sure, Shaquille O'Neal and Chris

Motors.

"Those three just jump out at you," says the Pistons' elder statesman, Joe Dumars, who had a battle or two with Mr. Jordan in his heyday. "They're so versatile. All three can play small forward, off guard or point guard."

Hill and Hardaway never played against Jordan, having entered the



TOM DIPACE

man they've never met.

Says Hardaway: "People are always gonna make comparisons."

Hill: "I just try to ignore it. It's something I don't really like....I try not to listen to any critiques, be it positive or negative."

Sprewell: "It's a compliment, but I'm no Michael Jordan. There will never, never be another Michael Joe Jordan."

So goes the company line.

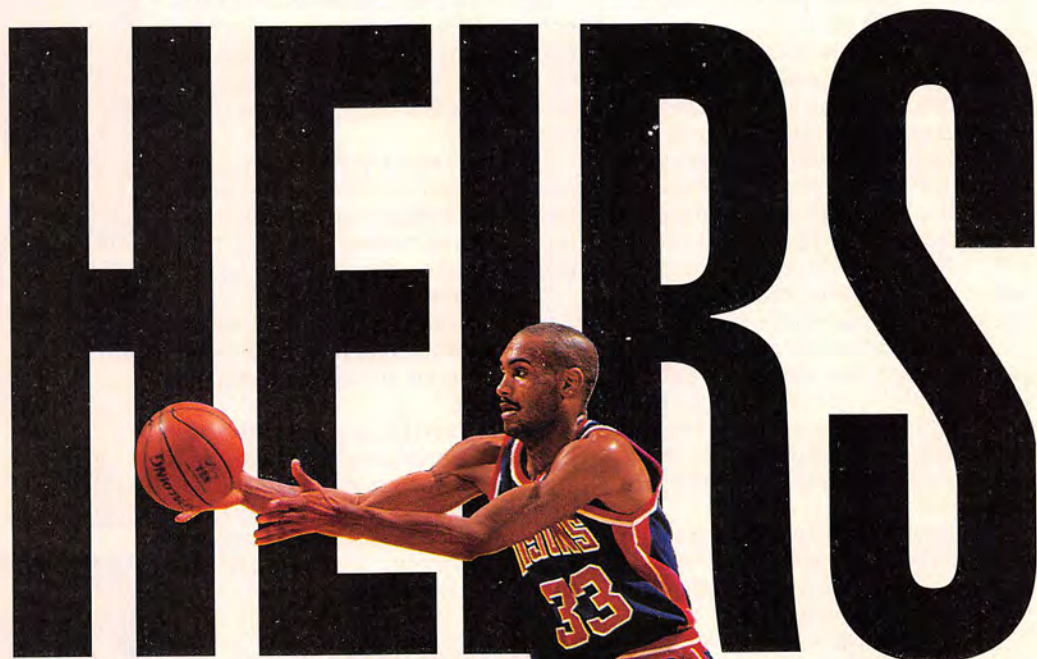
Still, there's something special about The Jordan Heirs that sets them apart. The athletic ability is obvious, whether it's Penny dunking after a coast-to-coast gallop, Spree taking off from a step inside the foul line for a floating stuff or Hill contorting his body in midair to catch an alley-oop from Dumars on the break.

NBA Action: It's Fan-tastic!

But athletic ability alone isn't what separates these three from the pack. Brainpower, not raw power, is what distinguishes The Jordan Heirs.

"Take Grant Hill, for instance," says Toronto Raptors scout Bob Zufelato. "You see how comfortable he plays with a veteran like Joe Dumars when they connect for spectacular plays. He's a rookie yet mature beyond his years. That tells you a lot about Grant Hill."

LATRELL
SPREWELL,
ANFERNEE
HARDAWAY AND
GRANT HILL
ARE TAKING
OVER WHERE
MICHAEL
JORDAN LEFT
OFF/BY DARRYL
HOWERTON



league after Michael retired. Sprewell played once against His Highness, scoring eight points in 28 minutes as a reserve. Not enough to make an impression.

"I never shook his hand," says Sprewell. "Didn't really talk to him."

Still, The Jordan Heirs are continually linked to their predecessor, compared whether they like it or not to a

It's that combination of Duke & Dumars schooling that has members of the Pistons' coaching staff acting like school girls at a slumber party. But you'd be giddy, too, if you coached a standout rookie small forward who seemingly has no weak-

nesses.

"I'm in a great spot," says Hill. "Joe Dumars is one of the smartest, probably the smartest player in the NBA. And I consider myself a student of the game.

You can't ask for a better

TIM ODELL

learning situation than that."

Members of the Pistons organization are so high on Hill that when the *Detroit Free Press* failed to run a single front-page item on him in his first month with the team, Pistons media relations director Matt Dobek brought Hill along to personally meet the newspaper's front office before it missed out on the city's best-kept secret. Jaws dropped and pictures snapped when the 6-8, 230-pound Piston entered the journalists' den. Now Hill is drawing banner headlines in and out of Michigan. The talk around town is that Grant could do for Detroit what Michael did for Chicago.

Sorry, Grant, but the Jordan comparisons are sometimes too tempting even for us discriminating, show-us-first media types to hold back.

"Grant does have some similar moves [to Jordan]," says Dumars, "but I've been very cautious not to throw that label on him. Grant is a great young rookie, but..."

A product from the University of Alabama, Sprewell didn't have Dumars-like mentors to show him the ropes. His veteran tutors were all recovering from injuries.

In the 1992-93 and '93-94 seasons combined, Sarunas Marciulionis missed 140 games, Tim Hardaway 98, and Chris Mullin 56. Consequently, the indefatigable Sprewell was given an overload of playing time last season—3,533 minutes, to be exact, more than any NBA player in the last 16 years.

That's not the only measure of the uniqueness of Sprewell. As the 24th pick in the 1992 NBA draft, he signed a four-year contract that averaged \$700,000 a year. Sprewell has not asked to renegotiate, even after all the accolades that have come his way.

Sprewell's an extremely private person, much like Jordan was at the time he left the game. The 6-5, 190-pounder is polite to the media and fans, but guards his home life as closely as he guards the Reggie Millers of the league.

Sprewell's summers in Milwaukee are spent without hardly a day of basketball, just relaxation and catching up with family and friends.

"Some people like that media attention all the time," says Sprewell, who doesn't even give the Warriors' public relations department his summer telephone number. "That's not what I'm about.... There's nothing wrong with people who [like the media spotlight]. It's just that we're all different people."

Unlike most greats of the past, Sprewell isn't married to the game. He doesn't study video tapes of his oppo-

nents or spend long hours breaking down his own game. But from the start of practice to the finish, and for 48 minutes of every game, he's the hardest-working and most astute player in his class.

It's a combination of his mental gifts and his work ethic that makes Spree what he is. "We don't just talk about how good he can be behind closed doors," says Nelson. "It's out there for God and everyone to see. He can be one of the best 2 guards ever to play this game."

Nelson says his shooting guard has the ability to absorb information and put it to use better than any player he's coached in his 18 years on the sidelines.

Told he needed a midrange game to go with his treys and slams, Sprewell got one. Told he'd help his game by driving left more often, he started doing that. Told to post guards up, he proceeded to score down low at will.

"He works whatever he needs to into his game on the spot," teammate Tim Hardaway says. "What can I say? Spree is Spree. It was tough for me to watch him come up and learn [last season]. He was emerging and I wasn't there to have fun with him."

Just how impressive was his first-team All-NBA status last season? No one had done that at such a young age in a decade—not Shaq, not Hakeem, not Charles Barkley...and, yes, not even Jordan.

"Sprewell has a quick first step like Michael," said John Starks, after Sprewell scored 27 on him and held the Knicks shooting guard to four points in an early-season matchup.

Dumars concurs: "Sprewell's just so tough getting to the basket. He reminds me of a young [Clyde] Drexler. Always running, athletic, hitting the outside shot.

"I love Hardaway's game too. Grant, Hardaway and Sprewell play both ends of the court, and I'm a little partial to guys [like that]. It's easy to be one-dimensional. But when you get a guy who can play both ends of the court, you got something there."

Winner of two titles at Duke, rookie Grant Hill (top) has won nothing but admiration in his short stint in the pros. Ditto for Latrell Sprewell (middle and bottom), the Warriors' steal at No. 24 in the '93 draft, picked behind 10 less talented guards.



TIM O'DELL

ROCKY WIDNER

ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/NBA PHOTOS

DRAFT-DAY MISCVES

The list below shows the draft-day errors in judgment made by teams who passed on Jordan and his heirs.

LATRELL SPREWELL—24th pick in 1992 NBA draft: If the draft were held today, the Golden State guard would likely be the third overall pick taken in that draft, chosen behind only Shaquille O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning. Guards that went ahead of Sprewell were Jim Jackson, Todd Day, Harold Miner, Bryant Stith, Anthony Peeler, Randy Woods, Doug Christie, Hubert Davis, Jon Barry and Lee Mayberry.

ANFERNEE HARDAWAY—Third pick in 1993 NBA draft: Shawn Bradley at No. 2 ahead of Penny might go down as yet another horrendous mistake in Philadelphia 76ers history. Golden State also rues the day it traded three first-round picks and Hardaway to Orlando for the rights to No. 1 pick Chris Webber.

GRANT HILL—Third pick in 1994 NBA draft: Milwaukee took Glenn Robinson, Dallas took Jason Kidd, and Detroit may have come away the big winner. Robinson and Kidd could be great, but Hill will prove to be the class of the '94 draft.

MICHAEL JORDAN—Third pick in 1984 NBA draft: Though we don't condone the selection, we can forgive the Houston Rockets for taking Hakeem Olajuwon with the first pick. Portland's No. 2 choice—now, that's another story. Poor Sam Bowie. He'll forever be the answer to the trivia question: *Who was the player Portland selected before Chicago took Michael Jordan with the third pick in the '84 draft?* Hopefully, Shawn Bradley or Jason Kidd won't face similar fates after Hardaway and Hill hit superstardom.

SPORT'S 24-AND-UNDER ALL-NBA TEAM

STARTERS

- F Grant Hill, Detroit, 22
- F Chris Webber, Washington, 21
- C Shaquille O'Neal, Orlando, 22
- G Latrell Sprewell, Golden State, 24
- G Anfernee Hardaway, Orlando, 22

RESERVES

- F Glenn Robinson, Milwaukee, 22
- F Jamal Mashburn, Dallas, 22
- F Clarence Weatherspoon, Philadelphia, 24
- F-C Vin Baker, Milwaukee, 23
- C Alonzo Mourning, Charlotte, 24
- G Kenny Anderson, New Jersey, 24
- G Jim Jackson, Dallas, 24
- G Jason Kidd, Dallas, 21



Defense is probably the most overlooked aspect of Hardaway's game. His playmaking, scoring and rebounding are ever-present on the highlight reels, but it's the 6-7, 200-pounder's defense, with his long arms, lateral quickness, nose for the ball and never-ending hustle that makes him a nuisance for even the smaller, quicker point guards.

What makes Penny's stock even more valuable is his constant determination to make himself better than the day before.

"One day I want to be the best player in the NBA," says Hardaway, who shares the same locker room and desire for greatness with O'Neal.

"I got steppingstones to get there. I can't be going out to nightclubs, going drinking or whatever [and expect] to accomplish my dream. I try to go home after every game, relax, just study [the tapes] and try to be the best."

Though just in his second year, Penny has a book on everyone. When he plays the Knicks, for example, he knows which strategies to employ against them. Now that hand-checking is illegal, he'll blow by the 94-foot pressure applied by Derek Harper. When Greg Anthony relieves Harper, Penny knows he can take it slow. Earlier this season, Harper conceded that the tape-watching has paid off. "Now he's the toughest guy to guard out there," says the 12-year veteran.

Says Hardaway: "I try to study everybody in the league because I want to get an upper hand on them. I look at a lot of my tapes from last year. Being a rookie, I didn't know as much. I learn more from that tape than you might think."

Sprewell and Hill are studying him too.

"Penny reminds me a lot of myself," says Sprewell.

"He's a great one," says Hill, who got his first up-close look at Hardaway in January.

When The Jordan Heirs look at each other, they can't help but see pieces of themselves. And when we look at them, we can't help but recall Jordan, perhaps the greatest player of all time.

In a way, it might be the closest we'll ever get to seeing Jordan on the floor again, watching the game as it's played out by his heirs.

Hopefully, none of them plans on taking up baseball any time soon. ★

The third pick in the '93 draft, Hardaway was certainly a Penny well spent for now-loaded Orlando.



Dikembe Mutombo

NO LONGER REJECTED BY THE NBA SPOTLIGHT, THE DENVER NUGGETS CENTER STANDS TALL IN THE ROCKIES/**BY BRUCE SCHOENFELD**



It started with a night vision, an unbidden visitation in a dream. With the Denver Nuggets down 0-2 to Seattle in a best-of-five

playoff series last year, Dikembe Mutombo unfolded himself into bed, closed his eyes...and saw his team win the deciding game. What happened next is already part of NBA history: The Nuggets not only became the first No. 8 seed to beat a No. 1, fulfilling the prophecy, they rallied from three games back to nearly upset Utah in the next round.

Along the way, the candid and intelligent 7-footer from Kinshasa, Zaire, gained a reputation befitting his stature. With America watching, Mutombo blocked more shots in a five-game NBA playoff series than anyone ever had (31), then did the same in a seven-game series (38). That capped a season in which he led the league in blocks but without landing on either the league's first or second All-Defensive team, a snub that left him incredulous.

Mutombo's interests transcend basketball, and when SPORT finally caught up with him, about 10 feet from one of the McNichols Arena foul lanes that he has made his inviolate property, he had as much to say about the world around him as the game on the court. He speaks nine languages, including five African dialects, but to minimize confusion we decided to conduct the interview in English. With the syncopated thump of teammate Robert Pack's practice jump shots echo-

ing through the empty arena as background noise, Mutombo signaled us to begin.

SPORT: Surely you weren't expecting the comeback against Seattle. After all, they were the best team in the Western Conference.

MUTOMBO: It was like a dream. Actually, it was a dream. After losing two games, I told the media that I'd had a dream we had won the series. They just said, no way, Mutombo, you can't match up with Seattle. But I had seen the game in my sleep and we had won, and then I saw us celebrating, so I knew we had won the series. So I came to the arena and told everyone, including my teammates and my coaches. And then we did win the series, just as I had dreamed it, and so we put the sign outside [McNichols Arena]: *We Have a Dream*. Then we played Utah and the same thing almost happened again.

SPORT: The Nuggets' playoff run captivated NBA fans everywhere and lifted you to the level of true NBA stardom in your third season. What was it like to suddenly get that recognition?

MUTOMBO: It felt good. I used to go to stores when I'd travel and always see [Patrick] Ewing shoes and [Alonzo] Mourning posters—and they're my close friends, of course. So sometimes I'd ask the clerks, "Do you have any Mutombo posters or Mutombo jerseys?" and they never did. But right now, you go to Boston or Chicago or anywhere else in the country to a Foot Locker or some-

thing like that, and you'll see my jersey for sale right next to theirs. It's a nice thing to see.

SPORT: Any negatives to your new celebrity status?

MUTOMBO: Just one. Yesterday, I tried to go bowling, and I didn't get a chance to have fun like I wished because every time I turned to pick up my ball there was somebody there who wanted an autograph. By the end, everyone in the bowling alley wanted my autograph. They didn't understand that I left my house to go and have fun like anyone else. Fans don't understand that sometimes [athletes] need just five or 10 minutes of privacy so they can enjoy themselves by ourselves.

SPORT: Not that you can ever travel incognito at 7-foot-2—

MUTOMBO: That's true. A guy like Robert Pack, he can sneak around in a movie theater easily and nobody knows who he is. Not me. Not when you're my size.

SPORT: You'll be returning home to Zaire next summer for the first time in seven years. As a national hero there, what kind of reception do you expect?

MUTOMBO: It'll be worse because everyone knows me. Every time I travel in an African country it's worse because I consider the entire continent my home. I've tried to educate people about my continent and visited it often, and I've kept my citizenship, so people haven't

seen me as a sellout. I'm one person who has [left the country] but tried to maintain his culture, and I think people realize and respect that. So when I go somewhere, they all want to talk to me.

SPORT: How much do they know about your success? After all, Zaire is not exactly an NBA hotbed.

MUTOMBO: Put it this way: My dad gets saluted by the soldiers and the military people. He's not even in the military, but soldiers want to show him respect for what he has accomplished, for raising his kid to be so successful—not necessarily on the court, but off the court, reflecting credit on the country. And it makes me proud that I've been able to do something that reflects so well on my father.

SPORT: You were 8 years old when Muhammad Ali fought George Foreman for the heavyweight championship in Kinshasa. It was the biggest sports event in Zaire and probably all of Africa before or since. Do you remember it well?

MUTOMBO: Of course. I grew up across the street from the stadium in Kinshasa....My mom at the time owned a small boutique at the stadium where she used to sell cigarettes, Cokes and beers. So we had free entrance any time there was a game or a fight.

SPORT: You actually attended the fight?

MUTOMBO: Yes. Almost my whole family was there. Everybody in Zaire was rooting for Ali, and they used to sing *Bomaye, Ali!* which means "Kill him, Ali!" And you still hear that on the streets of Kinshasa. Any time there's a fight or something, the kids sing *Bomaye, Ali!* even though they don't know what it means.

SPORT: Was that the first exposure you had to international sports?

MUTOMBO: In the same year, Zaire went to play soccer in the World Cup in Germany. They got beat by Yugoslavia, 9-0, but it was the first time Zaire had won the African Cup and went to represent the African continent, and that was a big deal. Actually, we've been accustomed to international sport in my country for a long time. I traveled to various countries with my national team as a teen-ager for two years before I came [to the United

States]. I was the youngest on the team, but I was just traveling with them, learning how to play basketball.

SPORT: Were you aware of the NBA at that time?

MUTOMBO: I never thought about it because my goal had been set since I was young. I used to be a good student in science, so I always focused on becoming a doctor. I got the scholarship to the U.S....and came here with the idea of going to medical school and then going back home and helping the people in Africa. I ended up changing my mind when I realized there was an opportunity to use my height and play basketball for the school and get a free education.

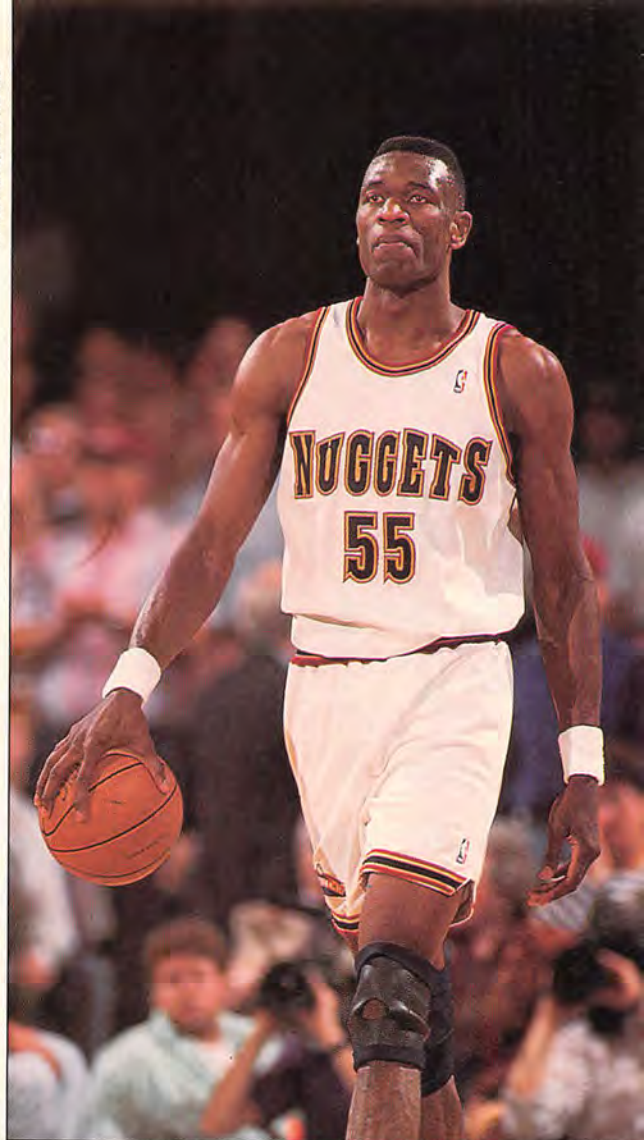
SPORT: Is it your perception that your success has helped increase American awareness of Zaire, or Africa, in general?

MUTOMBO: It might have helped a little bit, but with the picture they keep showing on TV and in the magazines of my continent, they have hurt me for so many years. Since I came to this country, I haven't had a chance to feel good about Africa at all because of what I've seen. I've been upset at [National Geographic] and criticized it since I was in college, and I will continue to criticize it.

"As long as I live, I'll remember that President John Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy, and I'll remember that I didn't win Defensive Player of the Year because of a conspiracy."

SPORT: Why National Geographic?

MUTOMBO: Because it gives an inaccurate picture. It focuses on the lifestyle of the African people who live far away from cities, out in the jungle, so that the American people believe that if you come from Africa it means you don't wear clothes.



Mutombo has a grasp on more than just basketball. The 7-footer from Zaire speaks nine languages, including five African dialects.

Here in America we still have Indians living on the reservation, but when you go overseas, you don't see pictures of America where they just show the Indians on the reservations. They don't even talk about that, in fact. So why does National Geographic show only the jungle? That's

Africa, yes, but it's far from the whole story.

SPORT: You took a trip to South Africa with Ewing and Mourning last

summer. They had heard you talk about the continent for years but hadn't seen it. What were their impressions?

MUTOMBO: They were shocked and impressed. It wasn't the way they expected it to look. When we landed in Johannesburg Airport, they thought we were still in

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London or Paris, from the way everything looked. Even when we went farther into the bush, four hours out of Johannesburg, we landed in an airport inside a national park and it still looked civilized, like we were somewhere. I think they realized then that I didn't come from the jungle. I come from a really modern culture where I was aware of everything that was happening when I was growing up.

SPORT: Patrick Ewing has been a role model for you since you followed him to Georgetown. What is your relationship like now that you're equals—and sometime rivals—in the NBA?

MUTOMBO: I always see Patrick as a brother. He still inspires me a lot. I wanted to move nearer to him so I could stay close, stay in contact, so I bought a house in the same neighborhood.

SPORT: You moved where he lives?

MUTOMBO: Yeah, I live three blocks away from him now, in Potomac [Md]. I have a house here in Denver, but I also have a house there. We hung out all sum-

mer long....I can't even describe it as a friendship, really; it's more like we come from the same family. And Alonzo too. He lives just a few blocks away, and we all spend a lot of time together.

SPORT: Yet you seem so friendly and outgoing off the court, while Alonzo and Patrick—

MUTOMBO: The two of them are nothing like they've been portrayed in the media. If they acted the way the media says they act, I couldn't be friends with them. I've never seen that side of them. I don't know where all that comes from. Maybe because sometimes Patrick just likes to stay quiet. People get the wrong idea.

"[Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning] are nothing like they've been portrayed in the media. If they acted the way the media says they act, I couldn't be friends with them."

SPORT: Most players become popular because of scoring or flamboyant passing, but you've made your reputation almost exclusively with defense.

MUTOMBO: And that's what I enjoy, although I can score. I always try to keep remembering Bill Russell. He played this

game and won championships and people remember his defense, but they tend to forget that he also scored a lot of points. He did whatever he had to do for his team to win, actually, and that's what I try to do every night.

SPORT: Describe the sensation you get when you reject a shot.

MUTOMBO: It doesn't just make me feel good but my teammates too.... When I get those shots, it gets the team excited and changes the tempo of the game. My teammates realize that. They say, "Come on, big fella, get us one."

SPORT: When you do, you haven't been shy about letting opponents know about it. You're known as one of the most vocal taunters in the league. How has the new rule prohibiting trash-talking affected the way you act on the court?

MUTOMBO: I still say what I used to say. "Get that [bleep] out of here!" Every time I block a shot it just comes out of my mouth. I tell myself I can't say it anymore, but when I block a shot, I do. I think



VICTOR BALDIZON/NBA PHOTOS

Dikembe can dunk with the best of 'em, but his forte is defense. He's still miffed about not winning last season's Defensive Player of the Year award.

it's part of the game.

SPORT: And yet, you don't talk trash after you dunk over players, only when you reject them.

MUTOMBO: It's a different feeling. I always think that when I block a shot, I'm protecting my house. It means I didn't let anybody come in and steal nothing, take the furniture, you know? It makes me feel good. It makes me feel like I'm doing what I was brought into this organization to do, what they taught me to do, and what they want me to do. I have to let somebody know.

SPORT: From the day the NBA sent a

league.

SPORT: What kind of conspiracy?

MUTOMBO: They just didn't think it was my time yet. Everyone said it was [Hakeem Olajuwon's] time. But I should

"I always think that when I block a shot, I'm protecting my house. It means I didn't let anybody come in and steal nothing, take the furniture, you know?"

have had the chance to put that trophy in my living room. Even my dining room. I deserved it!

SPORT: How did you react when you heard that you not only hadn't won the award, you hadn't finished on the first or second team in the NBA's All-Defen-

sive balloting?

MUTOMBO: Those guys who made those rules are those people who wear suits and ties, and they don't know what it takes to play basketball. That's why I disagree with it. If it was players or coaches involved in the rule changes, OK, but there were no players' or coaches' opinions, just suits and ties sitting behind a closed door making a decision. With all the rule changes, I have to start everything over now and learn a new game.

SPORT: And you also weren't pleased that you didn't win the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year award, right?

MUTOMBO: As long as I live, I'll remember that President John Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy, and I'll remember that I didn't win Defensive Player of the Year because of a conspiracy. Nobody can tell me a conspiracy doesn't exist in this

sive balloting?

MUTOMBO: It was sad. I've been trying to search for an explanation. [Agitated] How the hell, in this damn world, are we going to come to the conclusion that Mutombo was not Defensive Player of the Year? I broke my team record [for blocked shots], I broke the league playoff records. What didn't I do? So why? Why? Why? And there hasn't been an answer.

SPORT: Is that a goal now? To win it this year?

MUTOMBO: No. My mind is set that a conspiracy does exist. I don't care anymore. People can judge me by what they see, what they know.

SPORT: Speaking of judging you, you had a controversial non-event last summer. Your wedding was called off at the last moment because your fiancée refused to sign a prenuptial agreement, and you received some bad publicity for that.

MUTOMBO: I think that was unfair too. I think it was kind of racist, for the fact that I was from the African continent....It was embarrassing to me and my family.

SPORT: What happened?

MUTOMBO: A private decision was made. That's all. I ask this question: Was I the first person to ever call off a wedding in the United States? How many people walk out of a wedding by saying they have cold feet or for some other reason, can't reach a prenuptial agreement? I'm not the first one to broach the idea of a prenuptial agreement. In this country, even in my own country, this has existed for a long time....Even some women are now making their husbands sign one. I can name you a bunch of them, successful businesswomen. It's just the society we live in. It's not that we don't love each

other, or we don't trust each other. It's the way it is.

SPORT: How do you see that as racist?

MUTOMBO: I read in a magazine that I was asking for three wives. That was ridiculous. Why should I ask for three wives? I'm a well-educated young man. My father didn't do that, so why would I? The American people think Africa is the jungle, but not all Africans are from the jungle. We're civilized there too. It

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was stupid, the way everything was brought up. But I still have my job, and I'm still young. I have a long way ahead in my life. The time will come again for me to get married when I'll feel comfortable with it. I'm not worried.

SPORT: In basketball terms, 28 is already getting toward middle-aged. What are you thinking about doing after your career ends? Since you majored in diplomacy and linguistics at Georgetown, we presume medical school is probably out?

MUTOMBO: Yes. I told my dad I wanted to work for the United Nations or the International Monetary Fund. I want to be the first 7-footer to sit in the U.N., the first former basketball player. I know [Bill] Bradley and [Tom] McMillen have done that here, but I'd like to do it internationally and do some good for my continent.

SPORT: You've met Zaire's president, Mobutu Sese Seko, several times, and he has congratulated you for what you've done for the country. Any designs on his job someday?

MUTOMBO: [Laughing] No way. I'm not a politician. I get enough attention now just playing basketball. ★

THOMAS TURKIN/BA PHOTOS



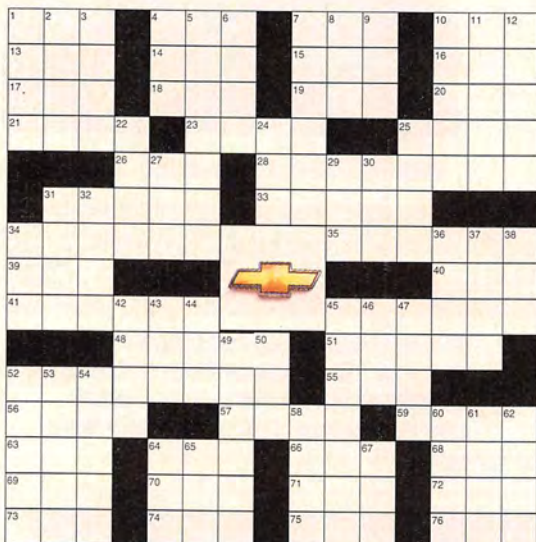
Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning accompanied Mutombo to South Africa last summer. Says Dikembe: "I think they realized then that I didn't come from the jungle. I come from a really modern culture...."

The Chevrolet Truck Across

SPORTword

Puzzle

By Stanley Newman



1. Former Cardinals exec Maxvill
4. The Horned Frogs: Abbr.
7. Spongy ground
10. Emulate Alex Karras
13. Pac-10 team: Abbr.
14. Physicians: Abbr.
15. Hall of Fame catcher Schalk
16. First day of the Masters: Abbr.
17. Gun the motor
18. ___ boom bah
19. Rubber ___ (reliever's asset)
20. Bill Bradley's title: Abbr.
21. NL Rookie of the Year in '51
23. Astros outfielder from '75 to '87
25. PGA nickname
26. The Razorbacks: Abbr.
28. Drops a fly, for example
31. *The Natural* or *Semi-Tough*
33. Catcher's locale
34. Native ability
35. Winning coach in Super Bowl XI
39. Special-interest group: Abbr.
40. Group for 14 Across: Abbr.
41. Belmont winner in '75
45. Pregame ritual
48. Contract-negotiation move
51. AL home run leader in '85
52. Long-time ABC sportscaster: 2 wds.
55. Daily Double, for instance
56. ___ Alonzo Stagg
57. Great fielding plays
59. Morrall or Monroe
63. Lion's foot
64. Former "Washington Monument"
66. Carl Hubbell's roommate
68. '70s Dodgers pitcher Doug
69. Ripen
70. Be obligated to
71. British Open beverage
72. Legal representative: Abbr.
73. Browns pitcher Garver
74. Unser, Jr. and Sr.
75. Chip shot's path
76. Fenway nickname

Down

1. College building
2. Region
3. See 31 Down
4. Six-point plays: Abbr.
5. Popular British sport
6. Top medal-winning country at Calgary: Abbr.
7. Pele's homeland
8. Crew-team member
9. Workout place
10. On a cruise: 2 wds.
11. "THE MOST DEPENDABLE, LONGEST-LASTING TRUCKS"
12. Adjusts an engine
22. Goalie stat
24. "Man in blue"
25. Iditarod vehicle
27. ___ Tin Tin
29. Linebacker Huff
30. Elementary-school group: Abbr.
31. With 3 Down, losing coach in four straight Super Bowls
32. Ms. Korb
34. One ___ customer: 2 wds.
36. "___ Yankees" (Broadway musical)
37. Australian birds
38. Lajoie's nickname
42. Weiskopf and Heinsohn
43. Where the Patriots play: Abbr.
44. 'Skins' stadium
45. AFL rookie of the year in '67
46. Thoroughfare: Abbr.
47. Evaluate
49. Holes-in-one, usually
50. Deli bread
52. 1998 Winter Olympics host
53. Public-relations concern
54. Performed outfield maintenance
58. All-time pinch-hit leader
60. Like ___ of sunshine: 2 wds.
61. Pro ___ (proportionally)
62. Yamaguchi jump
64. Python relative
65. Temple athlete
67. Tic-___-toe

See page 100 for Chevrolet Truck SPORTword Puzzle answers.

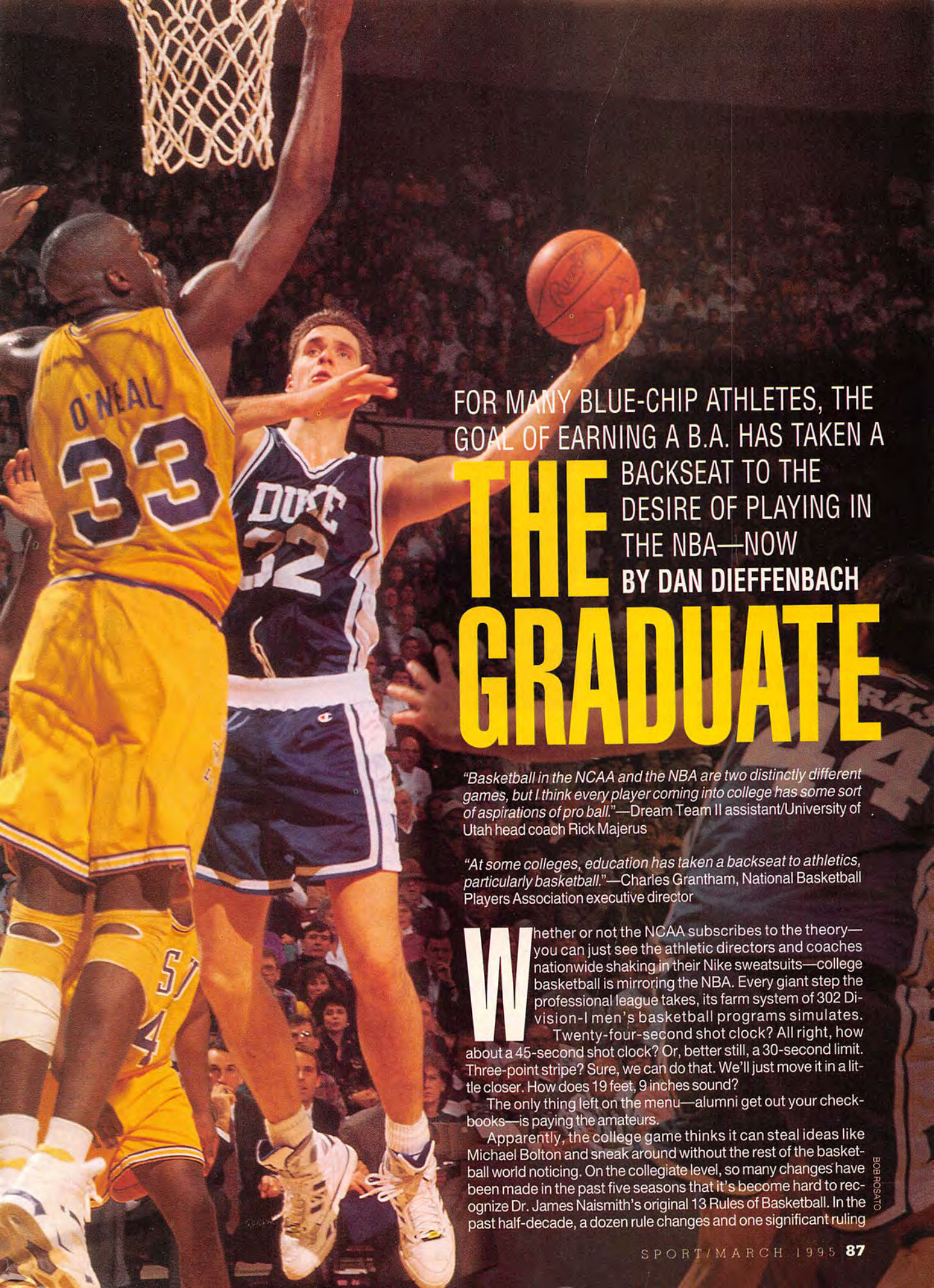
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FOR MANY BLUE-CHIP ATHLETES, THE GOAL OF EARNING A B.A. HAS TAKEN A

THE GRADUATE

BACKSEAT TO THE DESIRE OF PLAYING IN THE NBA—NOW
BY DAN DIEFFENBACH

"Basketball in the NCAA and the NBA are two distinctly different games, but I think every player coming into college has some sort of aspirations of pro ball."—Dream Team II assistant/University of Utah head coach Rick Majerus

"At some colleges, education has taken a backseat to athletics, particularly basketball."—Charles Grantham, National Basketball Players Association executive director

Whether or not the NCAA subscribes to the theory—you can just see the athletic directors and coaches nationwide shaking in their Nike sweatsuits—college basketball is mirroring the NBA. Every giant step the professional league takes, its farm system of 302 Division-I men's basketball programs simulates. Twenty-four-second shot clock? All right, how about a 45-second shot clock? Or, better still, a 30-second limit. Three-point stripe? Sure, we can do that. We'll just move it in a little closer. How does 19 feet, 9 inches sound?

The only thing left on the menu—alumni get out your checkbooks—is paying the amateurs.

Apparently, the college game thinks it can steal ideas like Michael Bolton and sneak around without the rest of the basketball world noticing. On the collegiate level, so many changes have been made in the past five seasons that it's become hard to recognize Dr. James Naismith's original 13 Rules of Basketball. In the past half-decade, a dozen rule changes and one significant ruling

BOBROSATO

Coach Thompson preaches education, the road Duke's Hill (bottom left) and Hurley (bottom right) chose, but doesn't blame the Washburns (top right) for going pro.

by the NCAA governing body regarding the NBA draft pushed the college game to the brink of an identity crisis.

"The purpose of any collegiate sport is to be part of a team that builds character and leads to better things in life," says Kentucky coach Rick Pitino, who is quick to point out that the Southeastern Conference adopted a 20-second timeout before the current season. Sound familiar?

So with all the money soiling big-time amateur hoops, it appears that the more basketball in the NCAA—National Collection of Aspiring Athletes—tries to rid itself of evil pro ideology, the more the game evolves toward and resembles—shhh—the NBA. Allegedly, education is at the end of the college bench.

"At some colleges, education has taken a backseat to athletics, particularly basketball," says Charles Grantham, executive director of the National Basketball Players Association. "Yet when an athlete chases the dream [of making the NBA], we hope that he catches an education."

"It's a business here at this level, and we're a sport in some ways," says the University of Utah's Rick Majerus, who got an up-close look at the NBA as a Dream Team II assistant coach last summer. Even the coaches are confused about the state of college hoops.

Most top-25 coaches in the country already acknowledge that their programs are designed as boot camps for potential pro draftees. "All the NBA players come from the NCAA, so we are their minor-league system," Majerus says. "We do things like play to a faster tempo and shoot the three so we can develop these guys for a higher league."

Today, common threads in rule changes, style of basketball and coaching have so intertwined this pair, it has become difficult to tell the entities apart.

"I don't know if it's good or bad, but all this change is a sign of the times," Georgetown's John Thompson says of the cloning.

Popularity of the game has put pressures on the powers that be to tinker with the status of college basketball. More than two million fans watched the nearly 4,000 Division-I college basketball games last season. Big numbers equal big dollars. The Final Four is now a rival to sports' greatest spectacle, the Super Bowl.

"You look at March Madness, and it rings of the idea that somebody is chasing a pot of gold," Grantham says. "The environment in college basketball is not unlike the

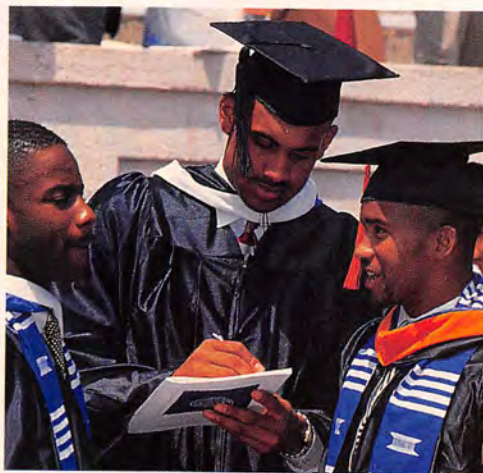
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BOB ROSATO

NOT MAKING THE GRADE

GRADUATION RATES OF MEN'S DIVISION-I BASKETBALL PLAYERS

4-YEAR

WHITES	1,293 PLAYERS	56%
BLACKS	2,190 PLAYERS	35%
TOTAL	3,579 PLAYERS	42%

2-YEAR (TRANSFER)

WHITES	204 PLAYERS	63%
BLACKS	556 PLAYERS	30%
TOTAL	785 PLAYERS	39%

UNDERCLASSMEN DRAFT PICKS

TOTAL ENTERED (SINCE 1971)	256
TOTAL DRAFTED	164

environment of the NBA. A combination of the value of television, of winning, all those things, suggests the business of college basketball is a great big, massive machine."

Grantham is the first to admit, however, that "athletes cannot be pawns in that game."

Another sign of the times is, for lack of a modern synonym, going "hardship," a term the NBA used until 1976, when players leaving school early to make themselves eligible for the NBA draft officially became known as early-entry candidates. Just take the No. 1 pick in the 1994 draft, Glenn Robinson, who signed a 10-year deal worth \$68.15 million with Milwaukee.

"I don't know where it's going to end," Majerus says. "I don't know if people are going to continue to pay these kinds of salaries."

Nonetheless, 24 years ago, it was the only way out of the projects, out of the ghetto, and out of poverty for many superstar college players. Now the irony of the "hardship" term is more powerful than a driving Corliss Williamson. The new-age proverb says, *if you're a senior basketball player and you're still in school, you're a loser.*

Perhaps the exception to the common law, Duke's three-time All-American Grant Hill was the only senior in the top seven of last year's draft. Hill follows in the Duke tradition behind Christian Laettner and Bobby Hurley, all graduated literally and figuratively to the NBA. "I think Duke is unique, since the first thing is that you have to be a premier student in the country," says Pitino. "One of the luxuries that Duke has is that its basketball program can hold onto Hurley, Laettner and Hill for four years because [attaining a] degree is important to them."

With Duke as the exception, the senior-loser tag translates into not talented enough or intriguing enough to leave school early and make a ripple in the NBA draft.

Since 1971, 259 college players (20 last year) have left school early for the lure of big money. It obviously has a strong appeal.

On Jan. 11, 1994, that hunger for money and the bright lights of the NBA prompted the NCAA to enact rule 12.2.4.2.1, which states: "A student athlete in the sport of basketball may enter a professional league's draft one time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete declares his or her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft."

Minnesota's Voshon Lenard (Majerus says he was "very ill-advised") was the first player to use the rule. He was a disappointing 46th pick in the draft and opted to return for his senior season rather than pick up the leftover bucks in Milwaukee.

Others, however, think they've profited

DOLLARS VS. DIPLOMAS

The question remains: the diploma or the dollars? The lure for college basketball players to leave school early and go from life as a student-athlete to life as an NBA millionaire is often too tempting to pass up. After all, what diploma is worth \$40 or \$50 million? Not even a Duke graduation card is worth *that* much. "You can be employed by the NBA and still get an education, so it's not just education on one side and money on the other," says Georgetown's John Thompson.

A handful of players are returning to universities while still playing in the NBA, and it's widely known that the league offers educational counseling to assist the many diploma-less athletes. For example, Shaquille O'Neal last summer returned to LSU to earn credits toward a degree, following in the footsteps of Julius Erving, who received a degree from UMass while still a 76er.

"You can always get the education, and if you can get that kind of money, you'd be stupid not to go," says Utah's Rick Majerus. "Anybody who will tell a kid different is selfish or not thinking about that kid's best interest."

An argument also can be made that the big-time student-athlete's standard of living is unacceptable, particularly based on the amount of money one can bring in to a university bank account. With the minimal spending money on the road, no employment opportunities during the academic year, and the constant juggling of practice, workouts and travel that accompanies a Division-I roster spot, should the amateur basketball player be paid?

"I think these kids should be given some sort of stipend," says ESPN's Dick Vitale. "I'm not saying pay the players, but just give them something extra to compensate for all the time, energy and positive results they bring to a school."

A stipend? A salary? What is the solution to this dilemma?

Says Charles Grantham, "We can't let the athletes be pawns." But with the multimillion-dollar contracts and the apparent reorganization of team hierarchy—players refusing to play for certain coaches and certain teams, for example—who are the real pawns, and who is getting rooked? The rookie crop this season will earn a total of \$55 million, the highest-paid class in NBA history.

Solutions are as limited as playing time in the NBA. Perhaps the governing bodies of the NCAA and NBA should be brought together. Some suggestions:

1. Put an actual dollar amount on the diploma, using it as a draft-day signing bonus.
2. Offer incentives to players for staying in school or reward NBA players for returning to earn a degree.
3. Break down and pay amateur players. According to recent numbers, 90 percent of big-time NCAA basketball players are contacted by agents by the time they're sophomores anyway.
4. Enact a rule: no diploma, no NBA draft.
5. Require a degree-less NBA player to show paperwork that he is working toward his degree in order to retain active roster status.

The message the NBA relays is stay in school, but soon it may start running out of players to send that message.

ALL-HARDSHIP TEAM

(A starting five that left early)

- G-Michael Jordan, North Carolina, 1984 jr.
- G-Magic Johnson, Michigan St., 1979 soph.
- F-Charles Barkley, Auburn, 1984 jr.
- F-Dominique Wilkins, Georgia, 1982 jr.
- C-Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston, 1984 jr.

EARLY ENTRIES TAKEN FIRST IN NBA DRAFT

- 1979-Magic Johnson (by L.A. Lakers)
- 1981-Mark Aguirre (by Dallas Mavericks)
- 1982-James Worthy (by L.A. Lakers)
- 1984-Hakeem Olajuwon (by Houston Rockets)
- 1992-Shaquille O'Neal (by Orlando Magic)
- 1993-Chris Webber (by Orlando Magic)
- 1994-Glenn Robinson (by Milwaukee Bucks)

by graduating early to the pros.

"I couldn't have learned anything about the NBA at Memphis State," says Anfernee Hardaway, the Orlando Magic's second-year pro. Hardaway was a prop 48 player when he entered Memphis State, then was the third pick overall in the 1993 draft upon leaving school after his junior season. "I don't know who [the system] doesn't work for, but if a guy feels he's good enough to come out, then come out. That's all I say."

Pitino, a former NBA head coach in New York with the Knicks, believes the state of college basketball is flourishing. "Let's face it, we've had four or five major wars with 18- and 19-year-olds defending our country, and it's not OK to go pro? How much of a hardship is that?"

Even programs like Georgetown's, which has never had an underclassman enter the NBA draft (Michael Graham apparently had been withdrawn from the university when he entered the draft in 1986), may be changing their tunes.

"We've never had a kid leave early, but I'm not in opposition to that, especially if it's suitable for that kid," Thompson says. "I would not think any less of a player for leaving early, and I don't know if I can pass judgment on another program for the decision it makes."

So at Georgetown, the NBA now comes before the B.A.?

"Examine the graduation rate at Georgetown and you'll find that answer yourself," says Thompson, whose students have graduated at a 97-percent rate. Thompson adds his reasoning for subscribing to and enforcing the four-year program throughout his 21 years as the head Hoya: "Psychologically and emotionally, the NBA can be devastating and destructive if you're not prepared. So the education isn't the only thing a player will miss by leaving early, it's the whole learning process, the preparation." Thompson also notes that this isn't just a struggle between education and money because athletes often return for their degrees—as did Philadelphia 76ers center Shawn Bradley, from Brigham Young University—even after they've turned pro.

On the witness stand for the lack of off-court preparation is Kenny Anderson, the now-starting point guard of the New Jersey Nets. Today, he's an All-Star, but he is not likely to forget the struggles and turmoil experienced in the early days of his NBA career.

"My theory is that if players are physically and mentally ready to go to the pros, then that is going to be their vocation," Pitino says. "Simultaneously, you also have to drive home the notion of not missing class, and make sure their effort in the classroom matches their court effort."

No doubt, some who ink their names on the list of early-entry candidates can buy property on any monopoly board after the

contract negotiations are finished. But that's the top end of the card. What about the 81 players who went undrafted after deciding to leave school early. Did they make a mistake?

"If you're in the top 10 or 12 in the draft and you can get that kind of money, I think you're foolish not to leave because of the possibility of getting injured," Majerus says. "These guys can buy the universities with the money they're making!"

Grantham agrees: "Given where we are from 20 years ago, the trend is to reap the rewards of the NBA and then return to school and get your education. You have to deal with the reality that you have a chance to make a certain amount of dollars. That decision is so hard with the money that is available."

So how do institutions keep the athlete a student and the game a game with all the evils that can envelop the college student-athlete?

Indiana coach Bobby Knight has been rolling up his sweater over that one for decades. Orlando center Shaquille O'Neal, who came out of LSU following his junior season and is reaping the endorsement, music and contract rewards of the jump, is not.

Chris Washburn was a talented but raw sophomore at North Carolina State when he opted for the big time in 1986. He had money, instant recognition and a first-round paycheck from the Golden State Warriors. But like Thompson's Law warned, he wasn't ready for any of it.

By 1989, Washburn was bouncing in and out of drug rehabilitation clinics in Oakland and Atlanta and eventually bounced out of basketball permanently.

Stories such as Washburn's aren't as uncommon as NBA and college coaches would like to admit—since 1989, 46 of 88 underclassmen making themselves eligible for the NBA went undrafted. So what about these nearly 50 guys who fell through the cracks of the system?

"Well, if they keep their ego in check and realize they have a better chance to be Vernon Jordan than Michael Jordan, then the system works," says Majerus. "What's sad about this whole thing is that we've got a lot of guys playing for the wrong reasons now. We have guys playing the game for the money, or for the notoriety or newspaper clippings, or parties or girlfriends. The ones like [Jazz guard John] Stockton and Jordan and Bird and Magic, they played for the competition, and they had a genuine love affair for this game." ★

Nets guard Kenny Anderson (top) initially struggled after turning pro early, a fate senior Voshon Lenard chose not to tempt.



SPORT QUIZ

How's your sports IQ? The famous SPORT Quiz has been separating the savvy fan from the weekend wimp for decades. See how you do with these 13 questions. Then check the answers below for your score, and rate yourself as follows:

12-13 correct: Sports genius
9-11 correct: Good fan
6-8 correct: Working too hard
3-5 correct: To the showers
0-2 correct: Try knitting
ANSWER THE SPORT STUMPER AND WIN A SPORT PIN. No matter how you do on

SPORT
MAGAZINE

this month's quiz, we'll send you a SPORT pin pictured above if you send us the correct answer to the SPORT Stumper given below. Send only your name, address and age to SPORT Quiz, 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. Limit one per person, and all entries must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 1995.

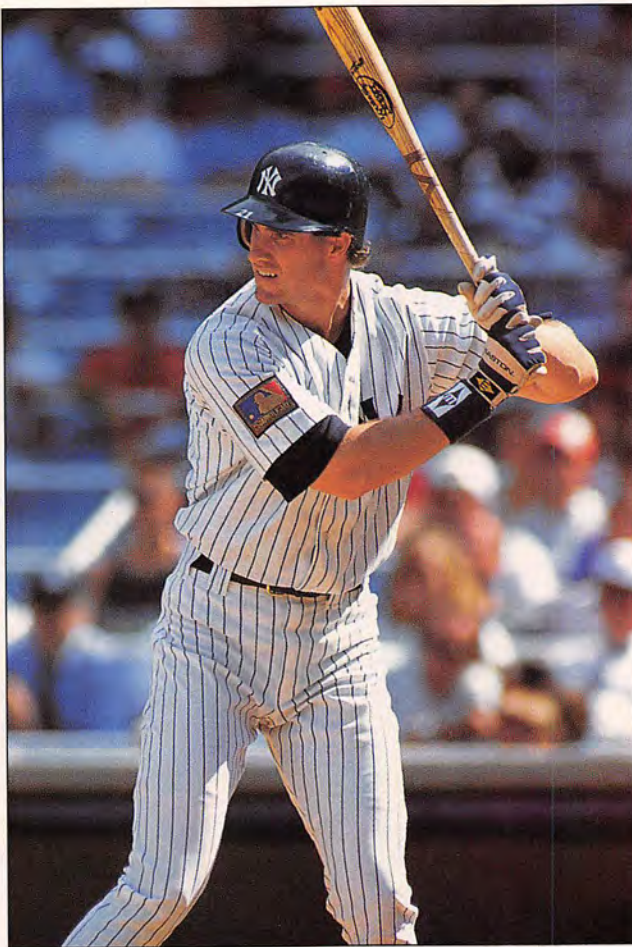
1 In 1994, this left-handed hitter (pictured) won the American League batting title. Name him.

2 Name the only National Leaguer to drive in 100 runs last season.

3 In 1994, which pitcher led the National League in saves?
A. Randy Myers
B. Doug Jones
C. John Franco
D. John Wetteland

4 Which hitter led the majors in strikeouts last year?
A. Jose Canseco
B. Reggie Sanders
C. Bobby Bonilla
D. Travis Fryman

5 In 1972, the St. Louis Cardinals traded Steve Carlton to the Philadelphia Phillies for which player?
A. Rick Wise



B. Dave Cash
C. Curt Flood
D. Denny Doyle

6 Since the 1974-75 season, only two centers have led the NBA in scoring. Name them.

7 Name the only member of the Charlotte Hornets to win the Sixth Man Award.

8 True or false: Anfernee Hardaway was named the NBA

Rookie of the Year for the 1993-94 season.

9 In 1985, whom did Bernie Bickerstaff replace to become head coach of the Seattle SuperSonics?

A. K.C. Jones
B. Bill Russell
C. George Karl
D. Lenny Wilkens

10 Houston Rockets forward Otis Thorpe was draft-

ed by which NBA team?

A. Kings
B. Warriors
C. Lakers
D. Suns

11 Going into the 1994-95 season, which team held the record for most points scored in an NBA game?

A. Nuggets
B. Pistons
C. Trail Blazers
D. Lakers

12 Who was the first Chicago Blackhawk to record three consecutive 100-point seasons?

A. Jeremy Roenick
B. Pierre Pilote
C. Chris Chelios
D. Stan Mikita

13 Last season, which player led the NHL in shots?

A. Brett Hull
B. Ray Bourque
C. Pavel Bure
D. Brendan Shanahan

—William Ladson

STUMPER

Name the highest-scoring American-born player in NHL history.

FEBRUARY 1995
STUMPER ANSWER

Don Shula ("Name the only coach to guide two teams to the Super Bowl.")

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ
ANSWERS

1. Paul O'Neill 2. Jeff Bagwell
3. C (30) 4. D (128) 5. A 6. Bob
McAdoo and David Robinson
7. Dell Curry (1993-94) 8.
False (Chris Webber) 9. D 10.
A 11. B (186—Dec. 13, 1983)
12. A 13. D

The New Dodge
A DIVISION OF THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION



A SELECT
GROUP OF NBA
GENTLEMEN
HAVE
MAINTAINED
STYLE AND
DIGNITY IN AN
ERA OF BRASH
TALKERS,
MOVING THEM
TO THE...

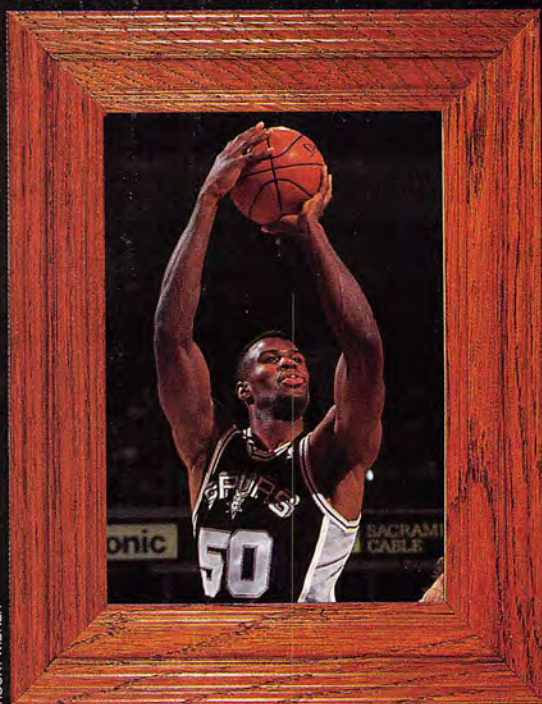
HEAD
OF THE

Class



BY DARRYL HOWERTON

*Where have you gone, Joe Dumars?
A nation turns its lonely eyes to you,
Woo woo woo,
What's that you say, Mr. Robinson?
Classy guys have left and gone away,
Hey hey hey, hey hey hey.*



Those words ring as true today for the state of the NBA as they did for America when Simon & Garfunkel first sang their version of the hit single "Mrs. Robinson" 28 years ago.

Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? Joe Dumars? David Robinson? Where have all the true sportsmen gone, and why aren't the ones who are still around being appreciated the way they should?

Remember how DiMaggio was revered for the way he carried himself? Dignity. Style. Class.



A tale of two eras: Dream Team II teammates Joe Dumars and Reggie Miller are the perfect contrast. While Dumars is a throwback to the pre-trash days, Miller runs his mouth like many of his contemporaries.

Joltin' Joe was as admired for his demeanor off the field as he was for his performance on it. The newsreels of the '40s and '50s routinely led off with any tidbit journalists could dig up on Joe D., from his marriage to Marilyn Monroe to footage of the big fish he caught back home in Martinez, Calif.

Because he was regarded by his generation as an honorable man, the New York Yankees great was an American folk hero, trusted spokesman for Mr. Coffee and Bowery Bank Savings & Loan.

Today, the 80-year-old DiMaggio lives in a sports world that not only tolerates the classless acts of its youth, but trophies them for all to see.

And somewhere amid all this trash-talking, finger-pointing, chest-thumping and camera-posing, the classy players—you know, the ones who let their skills do the talking—have gone the way of the dinosaur before "Jurassic Park"—extinct and forgotten.

Think about it. How often do you see an NBA player talking smack on the TV highlights? Or mug for the baseline camera after a dunk? Or taunt an opponent after scoring? Or tell you how *bad* he is in his latest shoe commercial?

For the most part, the so-called bad boys of the NBA have muscled the good guys clear out of the spotlight.

The NBA leaders in technical fouls last year—Dennis Rodman, Charles Barkley,

Gary Payton and Alonzo Mourning—are the guys who dominate TV air time in commercials, late-night sportscasts or those "controversial" interviews.

"Good guys are considered boring," says Detroit Pistons center Mark West. Simply put, they don't make headlines every time they open their mouths.

Let's face it: Trash sells, class doesn't.

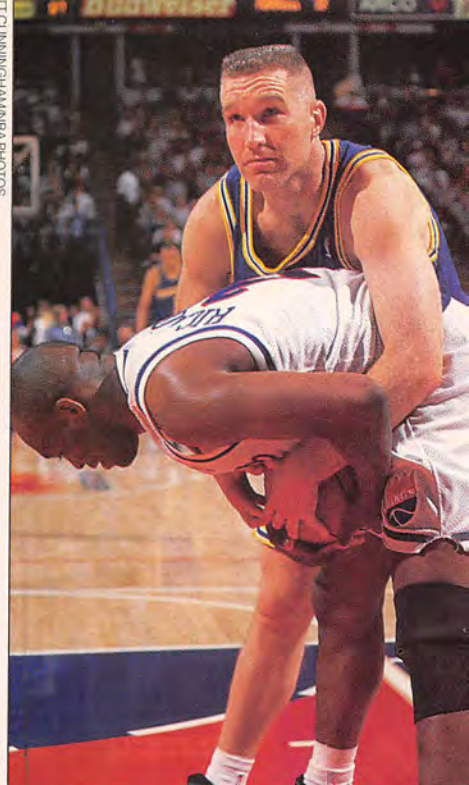
"It's proven over and over," says Dumars, the Piston known as the lone good guy on the celebrated Bad Boys teams of the late '80s, early '90s. "[The media] aren't going to put a whole lot of classy stories in these tabloid magazines or on these talk shows. There's a reason for that....Trash sells. Players know it, and they just kind of fall in line with that and give the people what they want."

But there are some notable exceptions, and it's high time the class acts of the NBA world are recognized. So SPORT has come up with a dignified team that demands recognition.

In assembling this team, we enlisted the help of all NBA types—players, coaches, general managers, officials, media relations directors, league personnel, writers, sportscasters and fans—seeking their opinions on who they think are the classiest players in the NBA.

The results are in, so without further adieu, we present the NBA's Class of 1995:

Guards: Dumars, Mark Price, Clyde



Chris Mullin grabs an occasional foul, but it's rare when he or any of the classy guys gets hit with a T.

Drexler, Terry Porter, John Stockton, Dan Majerle.

Forwards: Grant Hill, Chris Mullin, Buck Williams.

Centers: David Robinson, Hakeem Olajuwon, Patrick Ewing.

Head coach: Lenny Wilkens.

"It would be great to coach a group like this," says Wilkens. "It would give me my second NBA championship."

Just once, we'd like to see a classy dream team represent basketball for all it is intended to be. No fights, no taunts, few technicals, fewer camera poses. These 13 men exemplify the true meaning of class, a term we've defined as it relates to the NBA.

class (klas) n. 1. "Great style or quality"—*Noah Webster*. **2.** "To play the game at a very high level without talking or adding other rhetoric to his game"—*Jerry West*. **3.** "Someone who is dignified in the good and bad times"—*Joe Dumars*. **4.** "Someone you want your kids to be like"—*Mark West*.

Under these criteria, A.C. Green, Doc Rivers and Karl Malone garnered enough votes in our survey to be strongly considered, but just missed the final cut. Dumars was the runaway winner, with Robinson finishing a solid second.

After tallying the vote, SPORT contacted Dumars to see if he'd be willing to pose for this article in a classy tuxedo, to have fun with his new title as NBA's classiest



ROCKY WIDNER

While no media darling, Patrick Ewing has the respect of his peers by being the consummate pro.

player. Dumars gracefully declined, just as DiMaggio probably would have if asked the same question back in his athletic prime.

"Joe doesn't like to draw attention to himself," says Matt Dobek, longtime Pistons media relations director. "It's just not his style. Being flamboyant, wearing a tux for a story is just not Joe Dumars."

Just goes to show you, the GQ look can give a man style, but class runs much deeper.

"Joe wears his class subtly," says Charles Grantham, National Basketball Players Association executive director. "You don't have to wear it on your chest. In most cases, subtlety gets the job done."

"The most enjoyable experience of Dream Team II was winning the gold medal," says the Golden State Warriors' Don Nelson, the head coach of that celebrated team. "The second-most enjoyable thing was Joe Dumars. He was everything everyone said he was."

What we have here is a 31-year-old man who has done it all in the world of basketball—four NBA All-Star appearances, two NBA championship rings, one World Championship gold medal and one NBA Finals MVP trophy.

Not a bad resume for a guy who was paid a relatively miniscule \$1.3 million last season. But here's where the class of a Dumars shows.

When rookie teammate Grant Hill



DAVID LAM KYLE

Whistled for just one technical foul last season, Lenny Wilkens has proven a dignified winner.

signed an eight-year, \$45 million contract last summer, Dumars didn't cause a scene. He didn't complain to management, didn't ask to renegotiate and didn't freeze out the 22-year-old at their first meeting.

Au contraire, amigo. Dumars went out of his way to make the rookie feel at ease—arranging for Hill's locker to be next to his own and then pulling Hill aside and saying: "Listen, there's no protocol here. You don't have to sit here and feel like, 'I'm just a rookie, I have to wait my turn.' I'm the veteran guy on this team, and I'm telling you face-to-face, bring on all the good stuff that you learned from Duke and your parents. Bring it all now."

That, my friends, is class personified, especially poignant considering the snowball effect something like that will have on Hill, who surprisingly already has garnered enough respect from his NBA peers to make our classy team.

Remember, Hill is a 6-8, 230-pound extraordinarily skilled youngster who must fight off comparisons to Michael Jordan every week while on the other hand saying: "I would love it if players said I was another Joe Dumars one day. Now, that's a comparison I don't mind."

Big Brother Joe says his actions are really no big deal. "There's more to life than just shooting a basketball—you've got to be a good person," he says. "If I have to sit and read what's the best thing you can say

THE ALL-CLASH TEAM

Just once, we'd like to see a game between our all-class team and the NBA's resident all-clash team, a squad we compiled based on individuals who were whistled for at least 20 technical fouls last season.

STARTERS

- F Dennis Rodman, Spurs
- F Charles Barkley, Suns
- C Alonzo Mourning, Hornets
- G Gary Payton, SuperSonics
- G Vernon Maxwell, Rockets

RESERVES

- F Anthony Mason, Knicks
- C-F Frank Brickowski, 76ers

HEAD COACH

Mike Dunleavy, Bucks

about Joe Dumars, and someone says, 'Well, he's a great shooter,' something's wrong with me."

New York *Newsday's* Shaun Powell just shakes his head when this story is relayed to him, saying, "With Joe and Grant on the same team, [Pistons head coach Don] Chaney has got to be the envy of all coaches."

Chaney's not the only one so privileged. Portland Trail Blazers first-year head coach P.J. Carlesimo has three players on our 12-member team—Drexler, Williams and Porter. The Glide was praised by many of our pollees for trying to please everyone, Buck was well-respected for his role as National Basketball Players Association president, and T.P. was hailed as much for the grace with which he took his demotion to the bench as winning the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award in 1993. (Dumars won it in '94.)

The Utah Jazz's Jerry Sloan was another proud papa, one of two head coaches who had four players garner votes—Malone, Jeff Hornacek, Felton Spencer and honoree Stockton, who was on more than enough ballots despite cries of dirty play from Scott Hastings and Rodman during last year's playoffs. "I've never been in a fight," says Stockton. "Never been in anything except a minor disagreement with a guy." Chill, John, you made the team.

Even the San Antonio Spurs' Bob Hill, despite inheriting Rodman, the man of many hair colors, should count his blessings with classy vote getters Sean Elliott, Terry Cummings, Avery Johnson, Rivers and Robinson, who got the enthusiastic endorsement for classiest player from L.A.

NBA CLASS OF '95



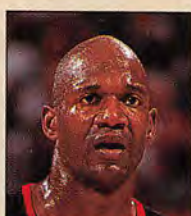
Joe Dumars
Head of the class



Mark Price
As quality as quality gets



Clyde Drexler
Tries never to offend



Terry Porter
Took demotion like true pro he is



John Stockton
Harnesses great competitive fire



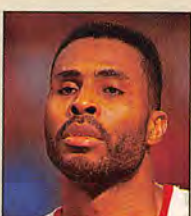
Dan Majerle
Coach's dream and ref's delight



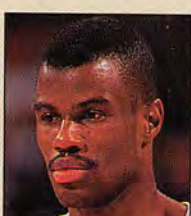
Grant Hill
The one youngster who stands out



Chris Mullin
Gym rat that's fun to be around



Buck Williams
Union leader with players' respect



David Robinson
Stands tall in height and class



Hakeem Olajuwon
Admirable even in the absence of basketball



Patrick Ewing
Players, coaches, GMs love him

PHOTOS BY ROCKY WIDNER, TIM O'DELL AND TOM DIPACE

Lakers vice president Jerry West, a true sportsman in his own playing days.

Newsday's Powell concurs: "David Robinson is probably the most coachable star in sports. Consummate team player. Never bitches or moans, although he probably has every reason to complain after playing for five coaches in six years."

Fellow center Olajuwon was on everyone's ballot, while Ewing, who earned few points from the media, was found to be extremely popular among his peers.

Price was generally liked by all; Majerle showed he was a favorite of both coaches and officials for his tight-lipped, aggressive play; and Mullin made the team because of his popularity.

Statistics backed up our survey's final results. This classy team of 13 tallied just 62 technical fouls last season, the same number as Rodman and Barkley alone. (Rodman and Barkley no doubt got a lot of TV time because of those T's, which consequently made them role models for a nation that now admires that type of play.)

Think it's a coincidence that Dream Team II got such a bad rap globally compared to the beloved first Dream Team?

The original squad—with classy greats such as Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Drexler, Robinson, Ewing, Mullin and Stockton—had only one player, Barkley, who took on the role of the Ugly American. Dream Team II looked as if it were holding auditions for Barkley's replacement, with the intimidation and celebratory antics of Derrick Coleman, Larry Johnson, Shawn Kemp and Mourning. Like Barkley, all three can be charming off the court. But their acts on the court during

the Dream Tour may have cost the NBA many fans internationally.

"I wouldn't necessarily say the younger generation isn't as classy [as earlier ones], but I think the focus is different now," says Dumars. "I'm not one of those media-bashers, but when you lead off with sports at 11:30 at night showing people with pink hair, showboating dunks, people trash-talking, you make stars out of them. What is that saying to the young guys coming in? 'Hey, the quickest way I can become a star is to start doing things that are outlandish and outrageous.'"

"Some of the guys are on the fence with this stuff and do it for the attention. That's not to say that those guys aren't responsible for themselves. They still have a choice. They can either be that way or they can try to have some decency about themselves."

Powell says it would be better not to let them have that choice. "All the people who run those late-night news shows should just get together one day, make a commitment and say: 'No more idiots. We're not going to show them anymore. We're not going to sacrifice our standards for ratings.'"

Perhaps a good idea. Even better if the leaders of the major newspapers, magazines and advertising fields were added to this proverbial roundtable. After all, this problem was not caused by a 30-minute show. It goes deeper than that. Some even think the NBA helped create this potential monster when it accepted the Bad Boys image created by Rodman, Bill Laimbeer, Rick Mahorn and Isiah Thomas.

"That was a perfect example," says

Dumars. "The league and everybody else jumped on that and promoted the heck out of the Bad Boys. I was right in the midst of it, was surrounded by it every single day. Writers and broadcast reporters coming from all over the country to do stories and everything, from *Rolling Stone* magazine to you guys and whoever. I chose not to get sucked into that. That's what I mean, we all have a choice."

Does the good guy in this sea of Bad Boys think this embarrassing trend of the past decade will begin to change sometime soon?

"I hope I'm not going out on a limb saying this," cautions Dumars, "but I think the in-your-face pointing and stuff will pass. Maybe I'm hoping, but I think people will get tired of that. I just can't see people forever and ever buying that. It has to wear out sometime."

Perhaps we'll have an idea that it's wearing out when Fila does a commercial with Grant Hill saying he likes being a role model. Or maybe we'll know it's fading when we see the ESPN and CNN cameras showing end-of-the-game acts of sportsmanship as opposed to the in-game finger-pointing. Maybe we'll truly know it's over when we see Good Boys Dumars, Hill and Robinson on the cover of *Rolling Stone*.

That'll be the day. When America rediscovers what class is all about.

Dumars, our resident expert on the subject, opens the locker-room door and reminds us: "When you find people who can keep that class, try to write some positive articles about them. Try to get them back out there."

We're trying, Joe D. We're trying. ★

SPORT FACTS

NOTEWORTHY NUMBERS AND STAT ODDITIES/BY DAN GORDON



Years since an NCAA basketball champion returned all five starters, as Arkansas did this season: 27

1: Since the NCAA tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1984-85, number that were ranked No. 1 in the final regular-season Associated Press poll, then won the championship (Duke, 1992)

2: NCAA champions since 1984-85 that were unranked in the final AP poll (Villanova, 1985; Kansas, 1988)

3: Schools that have finished in the AP top 10 in each of the last four seasons (Duke, Kentucky, Arizona)

6: UPI college basketball Players of the Year who later won NBA MVP awards (Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Walton, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan)

1: In the last 20 NBA All-Star Games, number of centers awarded the MVP trophy (Ralph Sampson, 1985)

NBA All-Star Game final scores below 110 since 1977: 0

6: Pitchers who have won three or more Cy Young Awards (Steve Carlton, 4; Sandy Koufax, Tom Seaver, Jim Palmer, Roger Clemens, Greg Maddux, 3)

0: Winners of three straight Cy Youngs prior to Greg Maddux

2: Post-1950 hurlers who have registered a better earned-run average than Maddux's 1.56 in 1994 (Bob Gibson, Dwight Gooden)



Managers employed by the Chicago Cubs since 1983: 12

Los Angeles Dodgers managers since 1954: 2

Braves' major-league-best number of wins in the '90s: 429

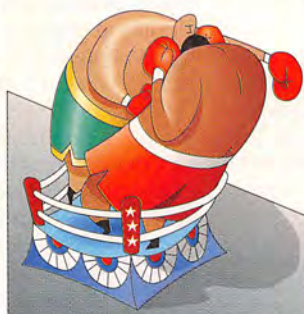
White Sox's '90s victories, most in the AL: 428

World Series wins for the Braves in the decade: 0

Series appearances by the White Sox: 0

Total NBA championships won by Celtics and Lakers: 27

Titles won by all other franchises combined: 21



Number of heavyweight championship fights between Oct. 30, 1974, when George Foreman lost the crown to Muhammad Ali, and Nov. 5, 1994, when he regained it with a TKO of Michael Moorer: 78

Number of seasons all-time winningest NBA coach Lenny Wilkens headed teams before receiving his first Coach of the Year award in 1994: 21

Wilkens' regular-season winning percentage entering this season: .545

Wilkens' playoff winning percentage: .496

Regular-season winning percentage of Red Auerbach, previously the NBA's winningest coach: .662

Playoff winning percentage of former Lakers and current Knicks boss Pat Riley: .652

20: Most seasons played in the NBA (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 1969-89)

20: Seasons played by Moses Malone (1975-), if his ABA career is included

Malone's rank on the NBA career regular-season scoring list: 3

Career punt returns by L.A. Rams' Robert Bailey prior to his record-setting 103-yard return in Week 8 of the 1994 NFL season: 0

Grand Slam singles tournament championships won by recently retired Martina Navratilova: 18

Number of those that came at Wimbledon: 9



Losing seasons in the 32-year coaching career of Dolphins' Don Shula: 2

Losing seasons in the 29-year coaching career of Penn State's Joe Paterno: 1 ★

A FAR-FROM-GOLDEN STATE COULD THE CHRIS WEBBER FALLING-OUT HAVE BEEN AVERTED? / BY RICK WEINBERG



Phoenix Suns veteran guard **Danny Ainge** believes that over the course of time, the Warriors won't regret trading **Chris Webber**.

"I think he's overrated," Ainge says of Webber, last year's rookie of the year who refused to play for Golden State coach **Don Nelson**, forcing the Warriors to trade him to the Bulls in one of the most controversial moves in years. "Don't get me wrong," says Ainge, "Webber is a very good player, but when we prepared for Golden State, we were much more concerned about **Latrell Sprewell** than Chris Webber, more concerned with **Chris Mullin** than Chris Webber, and more concerned with **Billy Owens** [now with Miami] than Chris Webber. He's a good player, but I think the Warriors would have been worse off if they lost someone like Sprewell."

The unfortunate side of the Webber saga is that it possibly could have been averted had Nelson telephoned or gone to visit Webber to hash out their differences. Nelson is one of the great coaches in the history of the league among those without championship hardware, and this could have been his year. Webber, at least to many league executives and scouts, could have helped Nellie corral that NBA title, especially after the Warriors ended their long search for a center by acquiring **Rony Seikaly** from the Heat. "With Webber and Seikaly, Golden State had the best starting five in the league, better than Phoenix's and Seattle's," says one scout.

The bottom line in the Webber affair is that Nellie illustrated his stubbornness, Webber his immaturity, and it cost a solid and stable franchise a chance to win an NBA crown 20 years after its first and only cham-

pionship.

Hopefully, for the sake of the organization, the fans and Nellie, **Tom Gugliotta** will turn into a 22-point, 12-rebound, five-assist man. "I think he's an excellent player," says Celtics GM **M.L. Carr**, echoing the sentiments of many league executives. Gugliotta has been called a "poor man's **Larry Bird**," but Carr, who played with Bird, says: "He's no Larry Bird. No one is. Gugliotta can do some of the things Larry did, just not on his level. Larry was a great

passer, a great shooter, a great rebounder because he sacrificed his body and was better at positioning than mostly every man who's played the game. He was a great, dependable leader who was there for you every night. Gugliotta does some nice things. He's an all-around talent, but he can't shoot or pass like Larry did."

League execs envision Gugliotta as the type of player who could improve year after year, and if anyone can extract that greatness, it's Nellie.

When (and if) the baseball season returns, look for improvement in baseball's closers. On the whole, they certainly can't get any worse.

In case you didn't notice, in direct contrast to last season's batting-record assaults was the success rate of closers, which was the lowest since the blown-save statistic was instituted seven years ago. Last season was clearly indicative of a trend that has continued for the last five years.

What's going on?

"The overall quality of closers has diminished," says former major-league manager **Buck Rodgers**, now a scout for the Phillies. "The guys who were the absolute best, the **Dennis Eckersleys**, the **Rick Aguilera**s, are older now and less successful, and

that's dropped the overall [success rate]. There are just no more **Dennis Eckersleys** out there, no more **Rollie Fingers**. There's mostly impostors now."



Dennis Eckersley

Last season, closers converted 777 saves in 1,169 chances. That's a .665 success ratio, an all-time low. Moreover, only two closers—**Lee Smith** and **John Franco**—were on a pace to save 40 games, and only five others were on a 30-save pace. The previous season saw nine relievers save 40 or more games, and 13 had at least 30 saves.

"I just don't think there's as many dominant closers today as there were a few years back," says the Giants' **Rod Beck**, who was 28-for-28 in save opportunities last season and who has emerged as the game's No. 1 stopper. "John Franco and **Randy Myers** had great seasons [last year], but the quality isn't there like it used to be."

The closer role has changed mainly because of age and injury. Only 10 clubs have stoppers under age 33 who have posted at least 20 saves. And before you know it, aging closers such as Smith, Franco, Myers, Eckersley and **Doug Jones** will be out of baseball.

"You're seeing more and more clubs going with a committee rather than just one guy," says Giants manager **Dusty Baker**. "If you don't have a dominant guy like Beck or [**John Wetteland**], you just can't bank on one guy. You have to spread it around like **Jim Leyland** did, or how the Reds did." With **Rob Dibble** sidelined with arm problems, Cincinnati rotated **Jeff Brantley**, **Hector Carrasco** and **Chuck McElroy**, and the Reds' future closer is expected to be **Johnny Rufin**, who was obtained in a '93 steal from the White Sox for **Tim Belcher**.

Despite the majors' overall decline of dependable closers, there are still a few young ones to watch for: the Marlins' **Robb Nen**, who was 15-for-15 in the absence of perhaps the best closer of all, the injured **Bryan Harvey**; the



Chris Webber

Padres' **Trevor Hoffman**, who had 20 saves and is emerging as a force among closers; the Mariners' **Bobby Ayala**, who struggled at the outset of last season but came on toward mid-season and wound up with 18 saves; and the Red Sox's hard-throwing **Ken Ryan**, rumored to be traded during the winter.

Conventional wisdom said that Central Park muggings and homelessness would be eliminated before **Charles Smith** gained any semblance of respect in New York.

But what many people thought was impossible is actually happening: Knicks fans have come to accept—and respect—Smith.

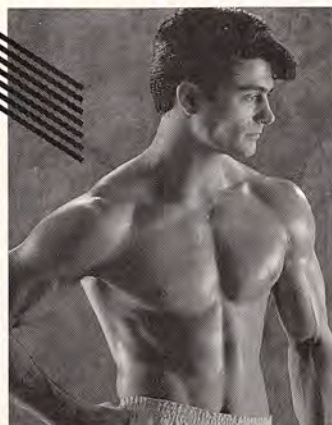
"He was a much-maligned player, one of the most maligned players I've ever seen in this league," says Knicks coach **Pat Riley**. "Few players have gone through what Charles has, but he has persevered, and he is beginning to win the fans over."

Smith never seemed to fit the Knicks' persona: the rough, tough, elbow-flying, scowling, scrappy madmen. Smith is soft. Always has been. He's a big man more accustomed to hanging around the perimeter than banging inside.

The Knicks knew that—and so did the savvy New York basketball fans—but the club acquired him anyway in a three-way deal with Orlando and the Clippers, and the Knicks were continually ripped for it. The criticism stretched from the tabloids to the front row of Broadway shows to the downtown deli. And when Smith had all those shots blocked underneath the basket in the waning seconds of the Eastern Conference finals against the Bulls a couple years ago, he became a marked man whom the city despised and laughed at. Of course, that contract extension the Knicks handed Smith a few weeks after that game infuriated New York fans. They wanted Smith out.

But Smith has altered the fans' perception, and his contract extension doesn't look so bad after all. "I'm playing with a lot of confidence, more than I've ever had since I became a New York Knick," he says. "It's been the toughest thing I've ever gone through professionally. But all it took was getting healthier and getting used to being here." ★

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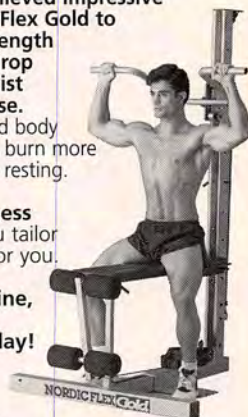
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It's role reversal for veteran photographer David Mecey, who finds himself on the other end of the lens.



Video crew members Deke Simon and David D'Anna ponder the many aspects of the swimsuit special.



Director of photography Scott Marshall keeps a watchful eye on the production.



The crew gathers aboard the Seasmoke while sailing the high seas.

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(Continued from page 16)

business cards and brought Kawasaki and Hilton to this big dance.

Executive producer George Paige had an idea. So he told a friend, who told a friend, who told a friend, and the video element was hatched. Along with executive producers Matthew Papish and David Garfinkle, a band was assembled that worked harder than the Eagles on their comeback tour. Tireless writer and line producer Deke Simon and director of photography and Seattle Seahawks superfan Scott Marshall brought associate producer Elizabeth Woolard onto the scene. Together they drafted, planned and reworked the ingredients that produced the spectacular video. SuperRaider Vincent Villanueva, Greg Taylor, Rachel Toni and Rebecca Hill, along with Danny Bontorin and David D'Anna, spent many a long night breaking down equipment, makeup and lights, only to set up again seemingly hours later.

In the end, it's the models and the photography that, as we say in the magazine business, "keeps 'em coming back for more." Don't forget to tune into ESPN and Prime Ticket for a full one-hour showing of the special. If you'd like more, no problem. Order your own personal copy of the video and receive extra footage not included in the television airings. But for now, prop up your feet and enjoy! ★

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DOWNEY ON SPORT

'90s COACHING TIP...CONTROL THE GAME, NOT THE PLAYERS BY MIKE DOWNEY

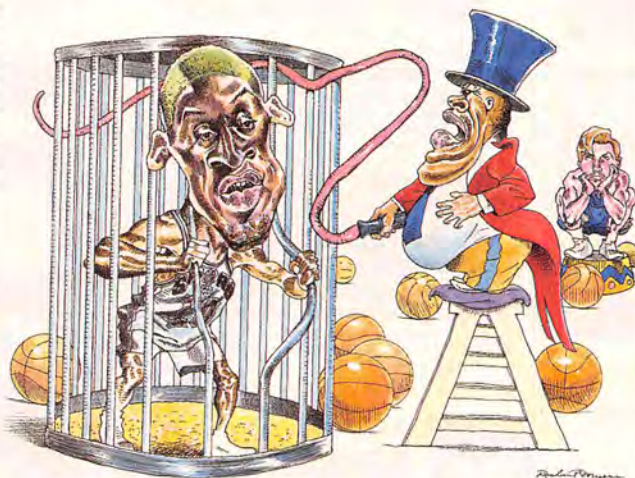
Chris Webber, Dennis Rodman and Derrick Coleman, three grown men, have all been accused of childishness. Why? Because none of them appreciated being *treated* like a child, that's why. When are today's coaches ever going to stop believing that "discipline" is the most important thing to inspire in a player, rather than performance? Man, these are the 1990s, not the 1960s. Get over it.

An entire generation of coaches continues to believe that it is permissible—no, advisable—to belittle players, reproach players, reprimand players, punish players and bully players into doing anything and everything the coach says. This habit is hard for coaches to break. They are accustomed to being in control.

They fail to take into account that things change. Society evolves. Maybe it isn't progress, but today's athlete, the Generation X athlete, is sick of being kicked around. By that I mean, today's players are willing to *play* the way the coach tells them, when and where and how, but are no longer willing to accept being yanked by the jersey (hands off, man), humiliated or verbally abused (no need for that, man) or, my personal favorite, being told how to dress (none of your business, man).

All Chris Webber wanted to do was play basketball. He didn't want anyone screaming at him, demeaning him in front of others. Advice, yes. Not abuse. So instead of swallowing it without a peep, Webber just told the Golden State Warriors that he did not care to play basketball for Mr. Don Nelson one more minute. Which he didn't. Let me tell you something. Chris Webber is an adult. And an adult has choices. He was not Golden State Warriors

ILLUSTRATION: ROBERT MYERS



property. He was an employee, with rights. And he exercised those rights, including an option that gave him an escape clause in his contract after one season. I'm with Webber. Once I got to be his age, I didn't want anyone yelling at me anymore.

Now, Dennis Rodman, as we all know, is not your average individual. Dennis is a semi-menace. Dennis doesn't look or play like your typical NBA player. This is not Jerry West. This is not Willis Reed. This is a 1995-model basketball player, full of quirks and rebelliousness. It is not Rodman's fault that he cannot be David Robinson or Joe Dumars. It isn't in him to be conventional. All he wants to do is play the game. He doesn't want to do everything everyone else does. Dennis doesn't need to practice rebounding. All he needs to do is do it. And nobody does it better. But because he wouldn't obey every single team rule, he was deemed unworthy of being a Spur as the season began. He couldn't be himself. He had to be what they wanted him to be.

Derrick Coleman never has been described as a team player. I don't know why. Does

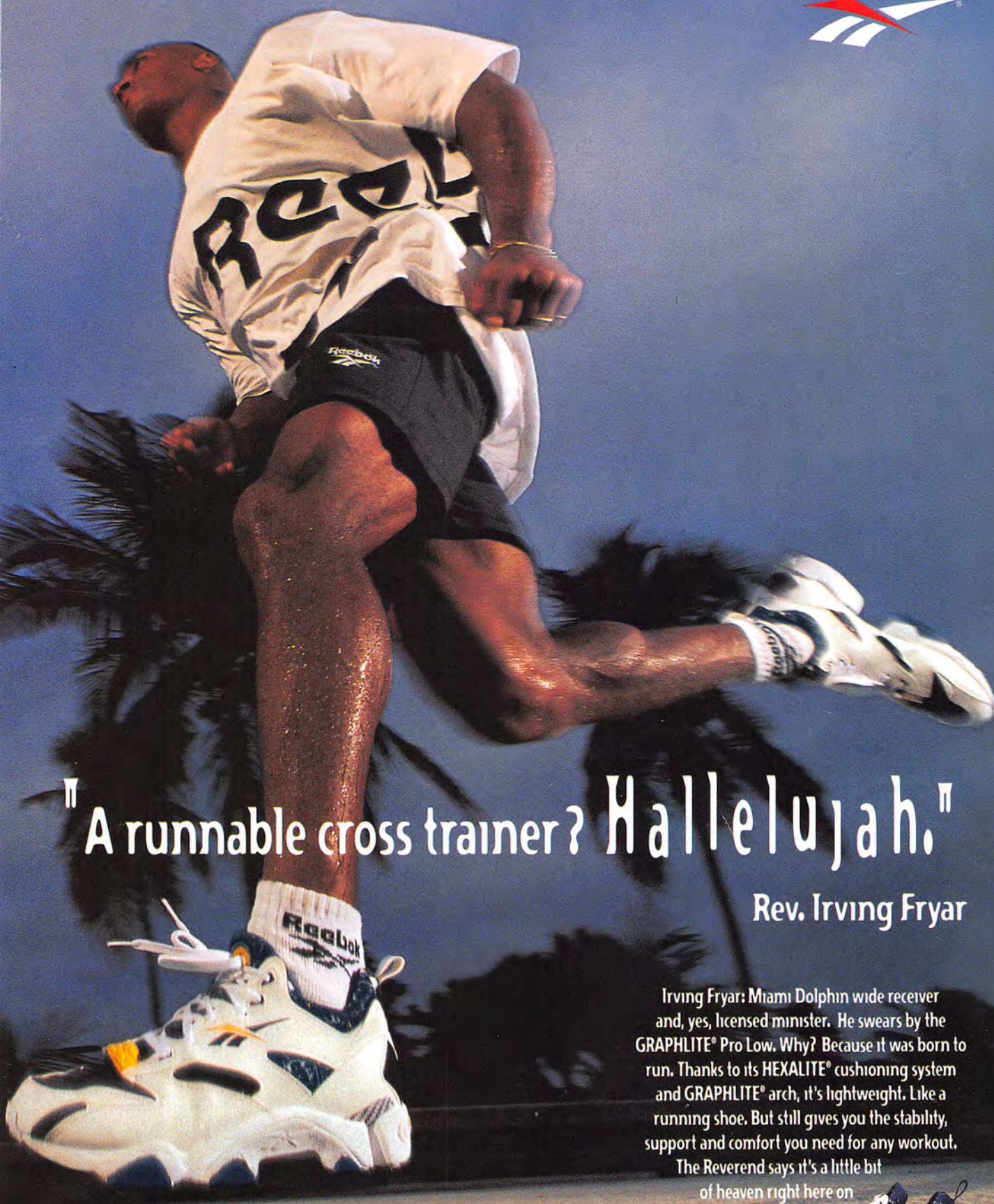
he never pass? Does he try to help the *other* team? Does he refuse to speak to his teammates, or shower with them, or pass the Gatorade, or what? Coleman is his team's top talent. He is paid a lot of money to perform, and he performs. Without him, his team would be a joke. So what happens? The team demands that Derrick dress properly for trips. Here is someone born in 1967 still being told what to wear. Coleman's bosses threatened to fine him thousands of dollars if he didn't dress accordingly. Coleman peeled off thousands in advance and offered to cover the tab, if only they would get off his case and let him dress comfortably. But no, the Nets had to make a big stink. Our way or no way, they said. Discipline! What a crock. When are coaches and team owners going to get over this obsolete notion that a team isn't really a team unless it wears sports jackets and neckties to impress passengers on airplanes? Forget that stuff. Play ball! That's what we want teams to do. Play ball!

Coaches think outsiders don't get it. They cling to ancient beliefs. It's like Indiana's Bobby Knight drawing ap-

plause when he says of writers: "We all learn how to write in the second grade. Then we move on." Yeah, some of you move on to teach 21-year-old men how to bounce a ball. Now, there's a way to improve mankind. The difference is, naturally, that athletes can choose whether or not to play for Indiana University, but they can't choose whether or not to play for the Indiana Pacers, if that's the team that drafts them. Their only options are to do what Webber did—get an "out" clause in their contract—or to do what free agents like Danny Manning do—keep your mouth shut and play until your contract is up—or to do what Danny Ferry did, which is leave the country rather than play for the team that drafts you. Today's athletes are independent. Stop trying to push them around.

I don't know why Glenn (Big Greedy Dog) Robinson felt the need to become the richest athlete in NBA history before he ever made a single basket. Personally, I think Robinson acted like a pig. But it was his perfect right to do so.

When robots learn to play basketball, coaches can program the robots. Until then, all they can do is supervise human beings. Today's athlete is not a mindless, spineless sponge. Butch Woolfolk once played football for a University of Michigan team, coached by Bo Schembechler. Coach said run left, Butch ran left. Coach said go in for Jones, Butch went in for Jones. But one day, Schembechler ordered his athletes to no longer speak to the press. Someone from the press approached Woolfolk a few days later. Butch said he'd be happy to speak. "Nobody can tell me when I can speak and when I can't," Butch said. "I'm not a dog, I'm a man." ★

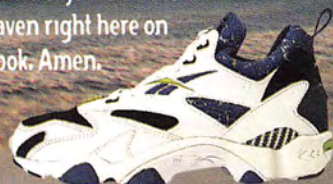


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